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THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE *MINISTERS* OF THE DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

VOLUME SEVENTEENTH.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
Cicero, de Orat. lib. ii.

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M,DCC,XCVI.



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	Carried over,	42782	50802	9419	1336	

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1794-5.	Increaſe.	Dec.	Page.
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41	Mochrum -	828	1400	572	—	559
42	Tynningham and Whitekirk -	968	994	26	—	574
43	Glaſſerton -	809	900	91	—	581
44	Tibbermuir -	988	1280	292	—	631
	Total,	52,790	61,988	11,151	1953	
	Population in 1755,	- - -	52,790	1953		
	Increaſe in 1794-6,	- - -	9198	9198		

THE

DIRECTION TO THE BINDER.

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STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART XVII.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF COUPAR OF ANGUS.

(COUNTIES OF PERTH AND FORFAR.—PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.—SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.)

By Mr JOHN RITCHIE *Student in Divinity at Markinch.*

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of COUPAR lies towards the center of the ſpacious valley of Strathmore. Though deſigned *of Angus*, the greateſt part of it is ſituated in the county of *Perth*. The diſtance from the latter is 12 miles, and from Dundee nearly the ſame. The river Iſla is its northern boundary. The length of the pariſh is about 5 miles, in the direction of S. W. and N. E. The breadth is from 1 to 2 miles. *Kinloch* and *Batmyle*, formerly belonged to this pariſh, but are now annexed to that of Meigle.

Surface and Soil.—The pariſh is divided, length-ways, by a ridge or bank of conſiderable height. The aſcent of this bank from the ſouth is eaſy; from the north it is ſteeper. Contiguous, on the north ſide, lie the Haughs of Iſla, containing upwards of 600 acres of a ſtrong clayey ſoil. Theſe haughs produce excellent crops of corn and graſs. It frequently happens, that, after northerly rains, the Iſla is ſwelled to ſuch a degree, as to lay the adjacent banks and haughs under water to a great extent; and, in time of harveſt, theſe inundations have been known to carry off large quantities of corn. Wherever the ground is elevated in any degree, the ſoil is light and gravelly; in the low grounds the ſoil is either of a clayey or loamy nature. The *Watton Mire* is a common of conſiderable magnitude, containing nearly 200 acres. The people of the pariſh were wont to repair thither for turf and ſods, which they uſed in part as feuel. It is now totally uſeleſs in this reſpect. Several overtures have been made to have this common partitioned among the heritors, but none have yet ſucceeded. Were it drained, and ſheltered with planting, it might turn to advantage. It now preſents a bleak and barren appearance in the heart of a rich corn country. The only plantation ground is in the weſt end of the pariſh, containing from 50 to 100 acres of common fir, the property of Lord Privy Seal. In many places of the pariſh and country adjacent, we meet with a red earth of a clayey unctuous nature, commonly called *mortar*, and ſometimes uſed in building. It is found a few inches below the ſurface, and reaches to a conſiderable depth. Below this ſtratum of red earth is found a ſoft ſtone of the ſame colour, which is, evidently, the ſame earth in a conſolidated form.

Agriculture.—The lands are now generally incloſed with thorn hedges. Formerly, the diſtinction between *Outfield* and *Infield*

Infield was conſtantly obſerved. The former was cropped alternately with oats and bear; the latter, after a few ſucceſſive crops of oats, was ſuffered to lie out a number of years in lea. The *run-rigg* prevailed, too, in many places. Theſe abſurd practices are now worn out, and the modern improvements generally introduced. Ploughs drawn by cattle were formerly in uſe. Theſe are now ſucceeded by ploughs with two horſes abreaſt, where one man both holds and drives.

Produce and Cattle.—Lint-ſeed is ſown in conſiderable quantities; and, when the ſeaſons prove favourable it ſucceeds very well; the lippie of ſeed frequently giving a ſtone of dreſſed flax. Half a century ago no wheat was raiſed in Coupar. The quantity is ſtill inconſiderable, owing to the difficulty of procuring manure. No field beans are raiſed. Oats, barley, and peaſe, are the grain in moſt requeſt. The barley is either ſold to the brewers in the town of Coupar, or carried to the neighbouring ports, where it is either malted or put on ſhipboard. The other grain, made into meal, generally finds a ready market in the populous village of Coupar. The prices of the corn are the ſame as in the neighbouring pariſhes. The graſſes ſown are rye-graſs and red clover. No hay is made but for home conſumption. A few acres are generally fallowed in ſummer, and fields of turnips reared for the cattle againſt winter. Each tenant brings up young cattle in proportion to the extent of his farm. Theſe he diſpoſes of to drovers, or ſuch as keep graſs parks, who feed them, and take them to Falkirk to meet the Engliſh merchants. There are no ſheep kept in this diſtrict. Potatoes are raiſed in large quantities, and are of great ſervice to the poor. It is not much above 20 years, ſince this uſeful root came into general uſe in this pariſh.

Leaſes.—The farms are commonly let for a term of 19 years,

a period by far too ſhort to rouſe the exertion of the tenant, and induce him to employ that labour and expence, in meliorating the ſoil, which he might have in his power. Proprietors of land, it is preſumed, would find it ultimately to the advantage of their eſtates, did they give more ſcope to the farmer, by granting him a leaſe of triple the ordinary time. In ſuch a caſe it might be ſtipulated, too, that the proprietor ſhould receive a certain ſum of money upon the expiration of an ordinary leaſe. At the commencement of the lateſt leaſes the rents have been nearly doubled. The land, at an average, brings about 16s. per acre, though ſome farms are let at above 20s. per acre. The number of acres in the whole pariſh, by a groſs calculation, is about 2400, without including the commons; and the preſent rent is 2221 l.

Climate, Diſeaſes, &c.—Remarkable inſtances of longevity have ſeldom occurred. A poor woman died a few years ago, who muſt have been 116 years, from what ſhe remembered to have ſeen. The ſituation of the pariſh is healthy, there being no marſhy ground or ſtagnant water, nor any thing to obſtruct a free circulation of air. There are no diſeaſes peculiar to the place. Nervous and hyſterical diſorders are ſaid to be much more common now than formerly, owing, without doubt, to the way of living, particularly to the more frequent uſe of ſpiritous liquors and tea. The prejudices againſt inoculation are far from being removed, eſpecially among the poorer ſort.

Town, Roads, &c.—COUPAR is divided by a rivulet, which, turning the mills of *Kethock*, with two others in its courſe, falls into the Iſla *, about 5 miles to the weſtward. The *Abbey*,

* The bridge over the *Iſla*, near Coupar, was built in 1765. There

Abbey, with that part of the town which lies on the ſouth of this rivulet, falls within the county of Forfar. The reſt of the town and pariſh are in the county of Perth. The ſtreets are paved, and have lately been provided with lamps. The town has received conſiderable ornament, as well as advantage, from the excellent turnpike roads that have juſt been finiſhed. The Perth road, from the weſt, falls upon the croſs in a direct line of about a mile; with this the Dundee road, from the ſouth, forms a right angle; and, when the latter is carried directly through the town, to the eaſt, as is in contemplation, and the ground on each ſide feued for building, the beauty will be nearly completed. Several good houſes have lately been built here. The ſteeple was built in 1762, on the ſpot where the priſon of the court of regality ſtood. The view from the *Beach Hill*, northward of the town, is ſingularly delightful. The eye contemplates the meanders of the river Iſla, in its courſe through a fertile and extenſive plain; and, on the other ſide, a champaign open country, variegated with thriving villages and fruitful fields. There is a weekly market on Thurſday, and fairs in April, May, July, and December. Coupar is ſuppoſed to have tripled the number of its inhabitants within the laſt half century. This increaſe is chiefly owing to the encouragement given to the manufacturing of linen in this part of the country, and partly to the monopoliſing of farms, by which ſmall tenants and trades people have been obliged to remove to manufacturing towns.

Villages, Mills, &c.—Next to Coupar, the greateſt villages are *Balbrogie*, *Wellton*, and *Cadam*; and the number of families in the largeſt of theſe does not exceed 35. There is ſcarce-

ly

There is no bridge between that and Perth on the one ſide, nor between it and the bridge of *Deane* on the other.

ly a garden in the pariſh that deſerves the name; culinary productions being more regarded than ornament or elegance. There are 2 rivulets and 5 mills; 1 in Coupar, 3 in Kethock, and 1 in Balgirſho.

Manufactures.—There is a tannery in Coupar, which was built in 1781, wherein about 2600 hides of different kinds are dreſſed annually, and 9000 ſtone of bark uſed. There is alſo a very conſiderable linen manufacture *. In 1792, there were ſtamped at the ſtamp-office in this town, all manufactured in the courſe of that year, and within the bounds of the pariſh, 97,810 yards of brown linen (in about 600 reed), and 116,793 yards of *harn*. Both theſe kinds are ſent to the Engliſh market. The linen is whitened at the bleachfields in the neighbourhood, is uſed for buckram and hat linings, and is worth about 9 d. per yard. The harn is uſed for pack-ſheet, and is worth about 5 d. per yard. There is but one bleachfield in the pariſh, viz. that at Balgirſho, at which there are annually whitened about 200,000 yards. The number laſt year (1793) was only 90,000 yards. There are 4 whiſky ſtills in the pariſh, 3 of 40 gallons, and 1 of 30.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has increaſed conſiderably within theſe 40 years, as will appear from the following Table:

POPULA-

* The introduction of the linen manufacture, into this pariſh and neighbourhood, was principally owing to GEORGE YOUNG, late a merchant in this town, a man of an uncommon capacity for buſineſs and improvements. This man found means, by petitioning the Board of Truſtees for the Forfeited Eſtates of Scotland, to procure a ſurvey, and eſtimate of expence, for a CANAL between PERTH and FORFAR by this place. The plan was formed on a ſcale too expenſive for the ſtate of the country at that time, and was conſequently dropt.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF COUPAR.

Population in 1793			2076
Ditto in 1755			1491
	Increaſe		585
Annual average of births			60
Ditto of marriages			15
Ditto of burials			41
	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Number of ſouls under 10 years old	182	214	396
——— between 10 and 20	192	179	371
——— ——— 20 and 30	212	216	428
——— ——— 30 and 40	162	201	363
——— ——— 40 and 50	118	113	231
——— ——— 50 and 60	66	87	153
——— ——— 60 and 70	54	55	109
——— ——— 70 and 80	7	14	21
——— ——— 80 and 90	6	3	9
	999	1082	2081
——— in the town of Coupar	753	851	1604
——— in the country	246	231	477
——— unmarried perſons	57	70	127
——— widowers and widows	40	67	107
——— diſſenters	213	268	481
——— ſervants *	94	126	220
——— journeymen and apprentices			58

Number

* A man ſervant's yearly wages are from 9 l. to 11 l.; a woman ſervant's from 3 l. to 4 l.; 1 pound (22 oz) butter, 9 d. Beef ſells at from 3 d. to 4 d. per pound; a good hen from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. A maſon's wages are 1 s. 6 d. per day; a taylor's 10 d.; a man's hire for the harveſt 1 l. 10 s.; a woman's ditto 1 l.; a labourer's wages per day, with victuals, 1 s. In general, the price of every thing is raiſed one third within theſe laſt 40 years.

Number of families in Coupar - - -	520
——— ditto in the country - - -	118
——— ditto of Epiſcopalians - - -	5
——— ditto of Roman Catholics - -	3

PROFESSIONS.

Miniſter - -	1	Gardeners -	3
Barbers -	3	Fidlers - -	3
Weavers - -	101	Carriers to Dundee and Perth - -	9
Sadlers - -	2	Ditto to Edinburgh	1
Smiths - -	8	Flax-dreſſers -	11
Wrights - -	20	Staymaker -	1
Day-labourers -	57	Milliners and Sempſtreſſes	7
Coopers - -	3	Bakers - -	7
Watchmakers -	3	Butchers - -	9
Taylors - -	22	Brewers - -	9
Plaſterer - -	1	Wheel-wrights -	5.
Drovers - -	2	Dyers - -	2
Teachers - -	5	Farmers - -	43
Midwives - -	3	Maſons - -	23
Surgeons - -	3	Slaters - -	2
Maſter ſhoemakers	15	Merchants -	25
Journeymen & apprentices ditto - -	15	Exciſe officers -	3
Stocking-makers -	2	Public-houſe-keepers	45

Rent, Heritors, Church, Poor, &c.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 6669 l. 14 s. 4 d. Scotch. The number of heritors is 35. The chief proprietor is the EARL of MURRAY. The Crown is patron. The ſtipend is 500 merks Scotch, and 6 chalders of victual, with an allowance for the communion elements. The glebe is inconſiderable. The manſe was built anew in 1781. The church was repaired in 1780.—There are at preſent 24 perſons on the poors liſt, who are ſupported

ed by the collections at the church doors. The collections, at a medium, including mort-cloth fees, and dues for marriages, amount to about 56 l. *per annum.* The poor's money is distributed to them monthly, and they are allowed from 2 s. to 5 s. at a time. There is an Antiburgher and a Relief meeting-house in Coupar. The latter was built in 1792. They are both well filled, but chiefly from the neighbouring parishes.

School.—The school was rebuilt in 1792, and is large and well lighted. The average number of scholars is about 60. The master is in a valetudinary state, and the school is taught by an assistant. English is taught for 1 s. 6 d. writing and arithmetic at 2 s. 6 d. and Latin at 3 s. per quarter. The salary is 11 l. 2 s. $1\frac{4}{12}$ d. Sterling. Sir John Sinclair, or any other public spirited gentlemen connected with Parliament, who have the interest of their country at heart, must be convinced of the necessity of adopting some plan, to put the parochial teachers in Scotland on a more respectable footing. Their situation, at present, is not equal, in point of emolument, on an average, to that of the meanest mechanic or day-labourer.

Disadvantages.—The scarcity of *fuel*, and the great distance from any sea-port, are inconveniencies severely felt by the inhabitants of this district. The mosses, the nearest of which is 6 miles distant, are either totally exhausted, or restricted to the tenants of the ground. To have coals from Perth or Dundee is found, therefore, to be the cheapest expedient. These, considering the distance they have to be driven, and the high expences of carriage, prove very expensive to the poor tradesman. Much, too, of the farmer's time, that would have been laid out in improving his farm, is indispensibly lost

in procuring this neceſſary article of life. However, the advantages reſulting from the excellent roads, that are nearly finiſhed, will ſoon be felt by the country at large. Some attempts have been made in this country to diſcover coal, but they have all been abandoned without hope of ſucceeding. Indeed, from the conſtant appearances in the moſt favourable ſituations, there is reaſon to conclude, that, if coals are to be found, they muſt lie at a very great depth. Without adding to what has been ſaid of the practicability of a canal, in the Statiſtical Account of Meigle *, it may juſt be obſerved, that, by leading a canal round the Linn of Campſey, and narrowing the Tay in ſome places, that river might be made navigable a great way up, by means of horſes, and boats conſtructed on purpoſe, at a ſmall expence.

Antiquities, &c —There are ſtill viſible at Coupar the veſtiges of a Roman camp †, ſaid to have been formed by the army

* See Vol. I. No. LIII.

† On the center of this camp, Malcolm IV. founded an Abbey for Ciſtertian Monks, A. D. 1104, and endowed it with large revenues. This houſe was founded by advice of the Abbot of Melroſs, who was of the ſame order; and it is ſaid the Monks were long remarkable for their piety and exemplary lives. From the pavement, and baſes of pillars, and ſubterraneous paſſages that have been diſcovered, this Abbey appears to have been a houſe of conſiderable magnitude. Next to the Scottiſh Kings, the Hays of Errol were the principal benefactors to the Abbey of Coupar. The latter granted it the lands of Lidderpole, ſeveral acres of arable land on the banks of the Tay, and liberty of fiſhing on that river. The Monks were allowed free paſſage with their cattle over all the lands belonging to the houſe of Errol. Gilbert Hay, Conſtable of Scotland, granted them the patronage of the Church of Errol, and Chapel of Inchmartin, with all their pertinents and rights. In return for theſe immunities, the houſe of Errol claimed the privilege of burial in the Abbey. The laſt Abbot of Coupar was Donald

my of AGRICOLA in his 7th expedition. It is nearly a regular ſquare of 24 acres. Here the half of the Roman army are ſuppoſed to have encamped, while the other remained at Campmuir, a village near two miles S. W. from this place. There are no veſtiges of a Roman way, nor any Druidical circle or cairn in the pariſh *. The *Beach Hill* oppoſite to Coupar, *Stob-croſs* oppoſite to *Balbrogie*, and the *Witch Know* oppoſite to Cronan, are evidently raiſed by art, though tradition is ſilent reſpecting the cauſe. On the firſt of theſe a Roman urn was found; and it is ſaid, that juſtice uſed to be adminiſtered here, in ancient times, in the open air. The following names of places, in the vicinity of Coupar, are ſaid to be deſcriptive

NALD CAMPBELL of the family of ARGYLL. At the Reformation, this man is ſaid to have divided, among 5 natural ſons, all of the pariſh that belonged to the Abbey, viz. Balgeirſho, Kethock, Denhead, Cronan, and Arthurſtone. Some time before the Reformation, this houſe began to fall into decay; and, at laſt, a number of furious reformers from Perth completed its ruin.

* Lately, in digging at the weſt end of the church, there were found upwards of a dozen of ſtone coffins. Some were formed of one entire ſtone; others were made up of two pieces brought together in the middle. The inſide imitated the ſhape of the human body, being wideſt at the ſhoulders, narroweſt at the neck, and having the place for the head rounded. In ſome there were found ſeveral ſkeletons in the natural poſitions, with layers of earth placed between them. The covers of moſt of theſe coffins conſiſted of ſeveral flat ſtones; but no date, or character of any kind, was obſerved, whereby a conjecture might have been formed of their age, or the perſons therein depoſited. The cover of one was of an entire ſtone, at the foot of which there was faintly viſible ſome rude kind of ornament, and on the right ſide a capital Engliſh D was obſervable. One, being meaſured, was found to be 6 feet long within, 18 inches broad at the ſhoulders, 11¾ inches wide at the feet, and 15 inches deep. One appeared to have been, originally, too narrow, as the ſides thereof were widened, ſeemingly to let down the arms of the corpſe. Several ſmall figures, cut out of ſtone, and repreſenting warriors, have been alſo dug out from among the rubbiſh.

ſcriptive of ſome relation they bore to the Abbey of this place; *Cowbyre*, *Balgeirſho*. *Cottward*, *Cadam*, *Soutar-houſes*, *Drink-ſtill*, *Market-hill*, and *Balbrogie*.

Character, *&c.*—The inhabitants of this diſtrict are ſober, frugal, and induſtrious. They are hoſpitable and obliging to ſtrangers, and charitable to the poor. In their dealings they are open, unſuſpecting, and ſincere. Their ſtature is of the middle ſize, few exceeding 6 feet high; and their general appearance indicates ſtrength and vigour. Their hair is generally of a darkiſh hue, though ſome are to be ſeen with yellow or flaxen locks. In the article of dreſs, expence and finery are much more ſtudied than formerly. Not above 40 years ago, the broad blue bonnet, with a coat of home manufacture, was univerſally worn by the men. The tartan plaid, applied cloſely over a head dreſs of linen, was in uſe among the women. At preſent, few ſervant lads are to be ſeen at church without their coats of Engliſh cloth, hats on their heads, and watches in their pockets. At the period juſt referred to, a watch, an eight day clock, or a tea kettle, were ſcarcely to be met with. At preſent, there are few houſes without one or other of theſe articles; perhaps one half of the families in the pariſh are poſſeſſed of all of them.

NUM-

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF KETTINS.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR—SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.—PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.)

By Mr JOHN RITCHIE, *Student in Divinity at Markineh.*

Extent, Situation, and Roads.

THE length of the parish of KETTINS, from E. to W. is 4 miles; the breadth, from S. to N. is 3. The village of Kettins is distant from Perth about 12 miles E. by N. and about 14 N. W. from Dundee. The church is 1 mile S. E. of Coupar. The turnpike road, from the latter to Dundee, passes through the parish. It is not yet finished. A road extends to Perth along the foot of the Sidla hills, but is not frequented.

Gentlemens Seats, Surface, &c.—Lintrose, the seat of MUNGO MURRAY, Esq; was formerly called *Todderance*, and belonged to ——— HALIBURTON, Esq; whose grand-father, Lord TODDERANCE, was a Senator of the College of Justice, and a nephew of the house of Pitcur. Lintrose is a mile westward of the church, and is environed by fertile fields and thriving plantations. *Haliburton House*, a modern mansion, upwards of half a mile S. E. of Kettins, formerly the ordinary residence of the family of that name, is now the property

property of Lord Aboyne *. It ſtands in a plain, and is ſurrounded by ſtately plantations. A detached part of the pariſh, called *Bandirran*, lies about 6 miles S. W. and contains a gentleman's ſeat. The greateſt part of the pariſh is level, and incloſed with hedges of thorn, or fenced with ſtone dykes. The ſouth part gradually riſes to the ſummit of the Sidla hills, and is partly covered with heath and paſture.

Villages, Rivulets, and Mills.—Kettins has 7 villages belonging to it, and is itſelf the largeſt. The village of that name, where the church ſtands, is pleaſantly ſituated on a rivulet, which deſcends from the Sidla hills, and paſſing through Coupar, loſes itſelf in the Iſla, near 5 miles W. of the latter town, after having turned 5 mills in its courſe. The number of rivulets within the pariſh is 2, and they ſerve 10 mills.

Soil.—The ſoil is various. A great part of the low pariſh, the higher grounds chiefly, and the hill ground, have a light thin ſoil, and are partly covered with heath and paſture. In many places a ſtrong red clay or mortar prevails, and in ſome it is wet and ſpungy. The greater part of the pariſh, however, is tolerably fertile. Much of this diſtrict is let to ſmall tenants, who, beſides farming, follow ſome trades, chiefly that of weaving coarſe linen.

Agriculture, Produce, Cattle, &c.—The ſame manner of cropping

* The family of HALIBURTON were very active in bringing about the Reformation of the Church of Scotland, and in the laſt century had an extenſive property in this country. The Caſtle of PITCUR, a mile ſouth of the church, and now in ruins, gave title to the ancient and honourable family of HALIBURTON, the chief of that name.

cropping and improvements, that is followed in Coupar and the neighbouring parishes, is practised here, and the produce is much in the same proportion. Here, too, the same disadvantages, scarcity of firing, and the distance from lime and coal, operate as a check on the industry and improvement of the farmer.—There are a few dealers in cattle in the parish, who keep grass parks, and drive their fed cattle to Falkirk, or to England.—There are now no sheep in the parish. A few were kept to pasture on the hill of Peatie till lately.

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent of the parish is 5129 l. 16 s. 8 d. Scotch. The present rent is unknown. The land, at a medium, lets at 17 s. Sterling per acre.—The number of heritors is 8, whereof 7 are resident. Lord ABOYNE is chief heritor.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Crown is patron. The stipend was formerly 8 chalders 9 bolls 7 pecks of victual, but has been lately augmented. The church was built in 1768 *, and repaired in 1791. The manse was built from the foundation in 1792. The name of the present incumbent is JOHN HALIBURTON.

Poor and School.—The poors money, collected at the church doors, together with a rent arising from a mortification on land, amounts to 50 l. yearly. The number of poor at present on the roll is 14. The school house was repaired in 1782. The salary was augmented in 1790, by a decreet of the

* The church of KETTINS anciently had six chapels depending on it, viz. one at a village called *Peatie*, another at *South Coston*, a third at *Pitcur*, a fourth at *Muiryfaulds*, a fifth at *Denhead*, and a sixth on the south side of the village of Kettins. Most of these were within small inclosures used as burying places.

the Commiſſioners of Supply. It was formerly 100 l. Scotch. The preſent ſchoolmaſter has taught with reputation a good number of years, and has, with his ſmall emoluments, brought up a numerous family.

Population.—The population of Kettins has varied at different periods, as will appear from the following table:

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF KETTINS.

In 1726, the number of examinable perſons above 12 years of age, was * - - - - -	1100
To which may be added, for thoſe under that age, at leaſt - - - - - -	300
	1400
In 1755, the return to Dr Webſter was - -	1475
Increaſe in 30 years	75
In 1793, the total number of inhabitants was only	1100
Decreaſe in 38 years	375
Total number of baptiſms, from 1722 to 1726, inclusive - - - - - -	450
Annual average of ditto during that period -	90
Ditto of ditto, from 1751 to 1755, incluſive -	45
Ditto of burials, during that period - -	40
Ditto of ditto, from 1787 to 1791, incluſive †.	33
	Families

* The regiſter of births and marriages has not been regularly kept for ſome years paſt. There are no ſeſſion records prior to the 9th of Auguſt 1650.—A record of that date mentions two kirk-ſeſſion regiſters before that period.

† There is nothing remarkable in the proportion of males and females, nor in the prices of labour, or of the neceſſaries of life, in this diſtrict, different from thoſe of Coupar.

Families in the parish	218	Teachers - -	3
Families in Kettins	40	Brewers - -	2
Roman Catholic ditto	1	Smiths - -	6
Widowers - -	5	Wrights - -	13
Widows - -	8	Sieve-makers -	3
Bachelors - -	5	Day-labourers -	27
Unmarried women	4	Masons - -	2
Weavers - -	62	Cooper - -	1
Looms - -	100	Flax-dressers -	3
Farmers - -	41	Gardeners - -	2
Drovers - -	3	Bleachers - -	3
Shoemakers - -	7	Public houses -	5

Bleachfields, Longevity, &c.—There are 3 bleachfields in the parish, *Borland, Baldinnie*, and *Kirk-steps*. The two first whiten annually 100,000 yards, the last about 30,000 yards. —Few very remarkable instances of longevity have occurred within the recollection of the inhabitants, though to hear of people dying at the advanced age of 90 and upwards is not uncommon. There was a man alive last autumn (1793) at the age of 106. There are no epidemic diseases peculiar to this parish. Inoculation for the small-pox is by no means general, especially among the lower classes.

Antiquities.—There are no Roman ways, nor Druidical circles in the parish *. At *Camp-muir*, a village belonging to

* Some tumuli have lately been found in this parish, when digging materials for the turnpike road: One at Pitcur contained at least 1000 load of stones. In the center of this cairn, a few flat unwrought stones, and without date or characters, contained some human bones. A cairn of a very small size was found a mile farther south on the new line of road, and scarce distinguishable from the pasture around. In the center, an urn was found full of bones.

Kettins, and upwards of a mile N. W. of the church, there are ſtill viſible the outlines of a camp, ſuppoſed to be Roman, as noticed in the account of Coupar. At Baldowrie there is an erect Daniſh monument, 6 feet high. It contains ſome figures, but they are almoſt entirely defaced.—The Caſtle of *Dores* ſtood on the ſummit of the hill *, ſouth from Pitcur. Tradition reports it to have been ſome time the reſidence of MACBETH. The following names are doubtleſs of Celtic derivation: *Baldowrie*, *Baldinnie*, *Balunie*, *Balgove*, and *Airdlair*.

* On this hill, great quantities of aſhes are ſaid to have been diſcovered. From this circumſtance, it is concluded to have been one of thoſe hills, where fires uſed to be kindled in antient times, to alarm the country on the approach of an enemy. On the eaſt quarter of this hill, and cloſely by the ſide of the new road, the workmen quarrying ſtones came upon an excavation in the ſolid rock, in which they found ſome half conſumed bones of a ſoft conſiſtence. The hole was about 3 feet wide either way, and ſeemed to direct its courſe towards the ſouth. There was no entrance from above obſerved, for at leaſt half a mile in any direction from this place.

NUM-

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF LATHERON.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF CAITHNESS.—SYNOD OF CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND).

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT GUN, *Miniſter.*

Name, Erection, and Extent.

THE antient name is LOINN, derived from *Luidhoin*, which ſignifies, in the Erſe, or Gaelic, *lodged or bedded bear*, becauſe the lands contiguous to the church are of a good quality, and yield excellent bear. The modern or Engliſh name is *Latheron*.—The pariſh was formerly divided into two pariſhes at leaſt, if not more. In the title-deeds of Borg, a part of the eſtate of Dunbeath, it is deſigned the town and lands of Nether Borg, lying in the pariſh of Dunbeath, and ſhire of Inverneſs *.—The pariſh is 27 miles in length along the ſea coſt, and from 10 to 15 miles in breadth in different parts.

Roads.—The principal, or only proper road from the ſouth to Caithneſs and Orkney, along the Ord of Caithneſs, which

* In the hiſtory of the wars in Scotland, there is mention made, that, in conſequence of ſome diſſenſions between the Earls of SUTHERLAND and CAITHNESS, the former ſent 200 men into Caithneſs in February 1588, who over-ran the pariſhes of Dunbeath and Latheron in a hoſtile manner.

which divides Caithneſs from Sutherland, paſſes through this pariſh. This road, when it comes within a mile of the miniſter's houſe, divides itſelf into two roads, the one paſſing along the ſea-ſide to Wick, and the other croſſing the country by the Cauſaymire towards Thurſo.

Surface, Hills, Sea Coaſt, Soil, &c.—The appearance of the pariſh is diverſified, partly flat and partly hilly, or mountainous.—The coaſt is bold and rocky, riſing perpendicular, in many parts 100 yards and upwards, above the level of the ſea.—There are immenſe tracts of moſs and muir ground.—There are three large hills or mountains (beſides many ſmaller ones), *Morvine*, *Scarabine*, and *Maiden-Pap*. The top of Morvine is ſuppoſed to be more than a mile above the level of the ſea. With a clear ſky, one will ſee from it a part of 10 or 12 different ſhires. There is a fine ſpring near the top of it.—The coaſt is interſected by ſeveral ſtraths, on waters running from the hilly part of the pariſh towards the ſea. The ſtraths are ſurrounded with hills or high lands, which are covered with heath or paſture, interſperſed with a little bruſhwood. The ſoil in general is ſharp, in ſome parts a ſtrong rich clay, in others inclining to *grit*, or gravel, but in moſt parts interſperſed with maſſes of detached rocks, and looſe ſtones, the naked rock appearing often in the arable lands. The cultivated lands are generally ſhallow, yet productive of pretty heavy crops. What is not cultivated has in general a poor appearance, excepting the paſture and woodlands in the different ſtraths.

Climate, Diſeaſes, and Longevity.—The climate in general is dry and healthy.—The moſt prevalent diſeaſes are fevers, fluxes, and rheumatiſms. Fluxes were very prevalent among the common people in 1782 and 1783, owing, it is ſuppoſed,

to

to the unfavourable ſeaſons, and the corns being damaged. Why rheumatiſms are much more frequent among the country people now than formerly, no other cauſes can be aſſigned, than the immoderate uſe of ſpirituous liquors, and that they now wear linen next their ſkin, inſtead of a coarſe kind of woollen ſtuff of their own making, which they formerly uſed to wear. Severals have died lately about 90 years of age; one man in particular, HENRY CHRISTIAN in Lybſter, died in 1786, who could not be leſs than from 110 to 120 years of age, by his own account. He was conſidered as an old man in the infancy of the oldeſt people alive in his neighbourhood.

Mineral Springs, Rivers, Lakes, &c.—There are many ſprings in the pariſh ſlightly impregnated with iron, though none of any great importance.—There are three ſmall rivers, *Dunbeath*, *Langwall*, and *Berrindale*. The two laſt join within 100 yards of the ſea. In theſe rivers are caught ſalmon and trouts.—There are two ſmall lakes, *Ranga* and *Stempſter*, where trouts and eels are found. In the ſide of the former, there are the ruins of a ſmall fortification, and contiguous to the latter, the remains of a Druidical temple, and the arch-druid's houſe.

Fiſheries.—There are no fewer than 20 different ſpecies of fiſh caught on this coaſt. Beſides the various kinds of fiſh conſumed by the inhabitants, ſuch as turbot, ſkate, haddocks, whitings, cuddings, ſellags, dog-fiſh, mackerels, flounders, &c. there are three fiſhings carried on for exportation, the cod and ling, the herring, and the lobſter. The cod fiſhing has been carried on for many years. The ſtations are Dunbeath, Toiſe, and Clyth. The herring fiſhing was only attempted within theſe four years, and promiſes to be ſucceſsful.

ful. The ſtations are Dunbeath and Clyth. It is commonly about the beginning or middle of July, before they appear in ſuch ſhoals as to induce the fiſhermen to ſhoot their nets. This fiſhing continues to the beginning, or even the middle of September. The lobſter fiſhing only commenced laſt ſpring, (1793), and ſuch numbers do they catch, that many of them die before the ſmacks take them away, the cheſts being ſo full. The ſtations are Dunbeath and Lybſter. Two Engliſh companies have ſent boats and crews to fiſh this ſeaſon. The inhabitants propoſe to carry on the lobſter fiſhing againſt next ſeaſon. Theſe companies have a concern in the cod and herring fiſheries. There are from 40 to 50 boats of different ſizes in the pariſh.

Propoſed Harbours, &c.—In order to improve the fiſheries on this coaſt, nothing would be of greater importance than having two or three good harbours. Dunbeath and Lybſter ſeem to be the places beſt calculated for this purpoſe. Something might alſo be done at Clyth and Berrindale, at a moderate expence. It would likewiſe be of advantage to get ſome fiſhermen to ſettle from other parts, and to have the preſent fiſhers confined to a houſe and garden, inſtead of labouring ſmall tacks, as they do at preſent, which makes the fiſhing but a ſecondary conſideration with them.

Population.—As the records have not been regularly kept, the antient ſtate of the population cannot be preciſely aſcertained. This much, however, is pretty certain, that there are nearly double the number of inhabitants now, that there were about 70 years ago, when Mr Andrew Sutherland, the then incumbent, obtained an augmentation to his living.

Population Table of the Parish of Latheron.

Number of males in 1791 - -	1742
——— Females —— - -	2264
Total number of Souls - -	4006
Ditto in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter	3675
Increaſe	331
Number of families - - -	796
Average of baptiſms - - -	101
Ditto of marriages * - - -	23
Perſons below 10 years of age - -	1042
——— between 10 and 20 - -	645
——— ——— 20 and 50 - -	1744
——— ——— 50 and 60 - -	424
——— aged 60 and upwards - -	151
	4006
Number of reſident heritors - -	4
——— non-reſident ditto - -	4
Families of Seceders (Antiburghers) -	20
Ditto of Roman Catholics - -	1
Number of weavers † - - -	20
——— Shoemakers - - -	15
——— Taylors - - -	16
——— Wrights - - -	4
——— Maſons - - - -	7
——— Smiths - - - -	6
——— Shop-keepers - - -	4

Number

* The number of deaths cannot be aſcertained, as there are 8 different burial places in the pariſh.

† Moſt of the tradeſmen have ſmall tacks of land, in the cultivation of which a good deal of their time is taken up.

Number of Inn-keepers and whiſky ſellers -	30
——— Men ſervants - - -	114
——— Women ditto - - -	223

Church.—The preſent incumbent was ſettled in September 1775. The ſtipend has been lately augmented, and now amounts to 1000 merks Scotch, beſides 60 l. Scotch for communion elements, and 6 chalders of victual, half meal half bear. There is alſo a glebe conſiſting of 6 acres arable ground, and ſome graſs. Both church and manſe were built about 60 years ago. They were repaired ſoon after the preſent incumbent's admiſſion. They are at preſent undergoing a trifling reparation.—Miſs Scot of Scotſtarvet is patron.—There is a miſſionary at preſent employed, between the extremities of this pariſh and the pariſh of Halkirk, who is principally ſupported by the people who have the benefit of hearing him.—Excepting the few families above mentioned, all the inhabitants belong to the eſtabliſhed church.

Schools.—There is a parochial ſchool. The maſter's ſalary is 100 merks Scotch, with 20 l. Scotch for officiating as ſeſſion clerk and precentor. He has alſo 6 d. for every baptiſm, 6 d. for each certificate, and 1 s. 7 d. each for marriages. —There are 2 ſchools eſtabliſhed here by the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge. There are 3 or 4 other ſchools in diſtant parts of the pariſh, ſupported by the inhabitants.

Poor.—The number of perſons commonly on the poor's roll is from 70 to 80.—The only funds are the Sunday collections, and the fines paid by delinquents; the former is very trifling, being ſcarcely 3 l. Sterling. The conſequence is, that

that ſuch of them as are able to walk about, go from door to door, not only within the bounds of the pariſh where they reſide, but alſo in the neighbouring pariſhes. Two cauſes may be aſſigned for the collections being ſo ſmall, namely, too great a diſregard to public worſhip among thoſe of a *ſuperior ſtation*, and the poverty of the common claſſes, together with their being too fond of drinking whiſky.

Rent.—The real rent is about 1900l. Sterling. The valued rent, in Scotch money, is 3940l. 14s. 5d.

Agriculture and Produce.—There is a good deal of grain raiſed in, and exported from this pariſh.—There are three kinds of oats, white, black, and grey, beſides beans, potatoes, and peaſe.—Sowing of graſs and turnips is only in its infancy. This is no doubt partly owing to the ſhortneſs of the leaſes, and partly to the want of incloſures. The ſeed time commences commonly about the end of March, or beginning of April, and the harveſt about the beginning of September. The crops on ſome of the ſtrath grounds, at a diſtance from the ſea, are very apt to be hurt by froſts, blaſting, or mildew, particularly on the Highland eſtate of Braemore. The inhabitants in theſe parts ſuffered very much in 1782 and 1784. The common mode of farming among the tenantry is to ſow bear and oats alternately, excepting what ground they lay down with potatoes. If the land in this pariſh had the ſame juſtice done to it, which other parts have, by being reſted, and raiſing green crops, there is no doubt that it would yield as luxuriant crops as moſt parts of Scotland. But the cattle being ſmall, little is done by the plough. They go four a-breaſt, and the driver goes backward, with his face to the ploughman and the cattle.

Cattle, &c.—In the Highland part of the pariſh the cattle are ſmall and hardy; there is much room for the improvement of them. The ſheep and horſes are alſo of a ſmall kind, excepting Sir JOHN SINCLAIR's flock at Langwall.

Number of black cattle in the pariſh - -	4055
——— Sheep, excluſive of Sir JOHN SINCLAIR's flock - - - -	2555
—— —— Sir JOHN SINCLAIR's flock of Cheviot ſheep	2200
——— Houſes - - - -	1492
——— Ploughs - - - -	343
——— Carts - - - - -	45

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—Theſe two articles are greatly increaſed of late years. A day-labourer gets from 8 d. to 1 s. a day; women 4 d. and 5 d. Men ſervants from 3 l. to 4 l. beſides 6 bolls of meal, or their maintenance in the houſe; women ſervants, beſides maintenance, receive from 30 s. to 40 s. a year.—Pork and mutton ſell commonly at 3 d. the pound, and even beef in ſome ſeaſons of the year. There is no market in the pariſh, nor any one nearer than 20 or 30 miles. The gentlemen, for the moſt part, muſt therefore kill for their own uſe.

Services.—It were greatly to be wiſhed that ſervices were entirely aboliſhed, as they are much againſt induſtry and improvement. However, according to the preſent mode of farming, ſome ſort of ſervices may be abſolutely neceſſary. Although unlimited ſervices are wearing out by degrees, yet they are ſtill continued in ſundry reſpects, which is both ſlaviſh and detrimental to the tenants. They have a tendency to hurt their morals, as well as to hinder induſtry and improvement.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—There are ſeveral old caſtles along this coaſt, at *Berrindale* *, *Dunbeath*, (ſtill inhabited), *Knackinnon*, *Latheron*,

* According to tradition, WILLIAM SUTHERLAND was the laſt who poſſeſſed the caſtle of Berrindale. He was called WILLIAM MORE MACKEHIN, *i. e.* Big WILLIAM the ſon of HECTOR, implying that he was of a gigantic ſize. He went to Orkney with one of the Earls of CAITHNESS, and was killed in a ſkirmiſh there. Before he ſet out on this expedition, it is ſaid he was prepoſſeſſed with the opinion, that he never would return to his native country. He lay down on the ground above Berrindale inn, contiguous to the burial place, and cauſed the length of his body to be cut out in the form of a grave, which to this day retains the name of the long grave, and meaſures about 9 feet 5 inches.

The following Memoir reſpecting the gigantic WILLIAM, *grandſon to* HECTOR MORE *of* LANGWELL, *has been communicated by another hand.*

About the end of the 15th century, HECTOR SUTHERLAND, commonly called HECTOR MORE, or *Meikle Hector*, was proprietor of the eſtate of LANGWELL. He was deſcended of the family of DUFFUS, and reſided in a caſtle on the rock at the water mouth of Berrydale, the ruins of which are ſtill viſible. He built a houſe at Langwell, for his eldeſt ſon William, who married a beautiful woman, and reſided there.—Some little time afterwards, William's wife was in child bed of her firſt child, and Robert Gun, tackſman of Braemore, came over the hills to Langwell, accompanied by ſome of his clan, on a hunting party. Robert Gun propoſed to his friends, that they would pay a viſit to Hector More's ſon, and his young wife, which they accordingly did. Robert Gun, upon ſeeing the woman in bed, fancied her. Upon their way home, Gun declared to his companions, that he would have William Sutherland's wife to himſelf, and that the only means by which he could accompliſh his deſign, was to take away her huſband's life. His friends, whoſe conſciences were not more ſtrait laced than his own, having approved of his intention, they accompanied him the next day over the hills, and lay in ambuſh in the woods near William Sutherland's houſe, until they obſerved him come out to his garden,

theron, *Forſs*, *Swinzee*, and *Clyth*. Theſe were places of ſtrength in the days of rapine and violence. Moſt of theſe caſtles

garden, when Robert Gun ſhot him with an arrow from his bow.—They went immediately into his houſe, took his wife out of bed, and carried her and her infant child in a large baſket they had prepared for that purpoſe, to Braemore, where Gun reſided. How ſoon the mother recovered, ſhe was reconciled to Robert Gun, notwithſtanding of his murdering her huſband. She begged of him to call her infant ſon William, after his deceaſed father, though ſhe knew, had her huſband been alive, he would have named him HECTOR, after his own father Hector More. Robert Gun held the lands of Braemore of the Earl of Caithneſs in tack, but he would pay no rent to his Lordſhip. After being much in arrears to the Earl, his Lordſhip ſent John Sinclair of Stircock, with a party of men under arms, to compel Gun to make payment; but Gun convened his clan, and they defeated John Sinclair with his party. Several were killed, and John Sinclair was wounded in the engagement. This ſhews that Robert Gun was both a *tyrant* and an *uſurper*. Young William's mother lived the remainder of her life with Robert Gun, and had two ſons by him.—After theſe ſons had arrived at maturity, young William and they went one day a hunting; and William, being more ſucceſsful than the other two, killed a roe, which he deſired his two brothers to carry home. They objected to this drudgery, and ſaid that he might carry home his own prey himſelf. But William, who by this time had heard of his father's tragical end, told them, with a menacing aſpect, that, if they would not carry home the roe, he would revenge ſome of their father's actions upon them, which intimidated them greatly, (though they were ignorant of the cauſe of his threatening), as they knew he had more perſonal ſtrength than them both, he being then about 9 feet high, and ſtout in proportion; they accordingly carried home the roe, and told their mother that William had threatened them in ſuch a manner. She communicated this circumſtance to their father Robert Gun, adding, that ſhe ſuſpected William had heard of his father's death. Robert Gun being afraid of young William's perſonal ſtrength, wiſhed to be in friendſhip with him, and propoſed that he ſhould marry his (Gun's) ſiſter, who reſided with them in the character of a houſe-keeper. William did not reliſh the match, and would not accept of her. Soon afterwards Robert Gun made a feaſt at his houſe, where he collected

caſtles ſtood on a high rock above the ſea, and cut off from the land by a deep ditch with a draw-bridge. Part of the walls

lected ſeveral of his friends, and by ſome means or other got young William ſo much intoxicated, that he was carried to bed, and Robert Gun put his ſiſter to bed with him.—When William awakened next morning, he was ſurpriſed to find Gun's ſiſter in bed with him.—She told him, he might recollect that the ceremonies of marriage paſt betwixt them the preceding evening, and that ſhe was now his lawful ſpouſe He got up in a paſſion, and declared that he was impoſed upon, and that he would hold no ſuch bargain.

Robert Gun flattered him, and ſaid, that as he was now married to his ſiſter, he would make the match as agreeable to him as poſſible, by putting him in poſſeſſion of the eſtate of Langwell; and, in order to accompliſh his promiſe, he, with a few of his connections, concealed themſelves near Hector More's caſtle on the ſaid rock, until early in the morning when the draw bridge was let down, they forced their way into the caſtle, and carried Hector More (who was then an old feeble man) out of his caſtle, and left him in a cot houſe in the neighbourhood, where he remained for ſome little time, and afterwards went to Sutherland, and paſſed the remainder of his days with one of his relations, Sutherland of Rearchar.

Robert Gun then returned in triumph to Braemore, and conducted William Sutherland and his eſpouſed wife to the ſaid caſtle, and gave them alſo poſſeſſion of the eſtate of Langwell.—William being very much diſſatisfied with Robert Gun's conduct, and not liking the company of his ſiſter as a ſpouſe, went and complained of his grievances to the Earl of Caithneſs, who promiſed him redreſs as ſoon as he returned from the Orkneys, where he was going to quell a rebellion, along with the Baron of Roſlin, and wiſhed that he, (William) being a very ſtout man, would accompany him. William conſented to do ſo; and returned to Berrydale to bid his friends farewell before he would go on ſo dangerous an expedition. Juſt as he was parting with them at the burial ground on the Breas, on the eaſt ſide of the water of Berrydale, he told his friends that he ſuſpected he never would return from Orkney; he then laid himſelf down on the heath near the ſaid burial ground, and deſired his companions to fix two ſtones in the ground, the one at his head, and the other at his feet, in order to ſhew to poſterity his uncommon ſtature; which ſtones remain there ſtill, and the exact

walls of the old caſtle at *Achaiſtal* ſtill remains entire *, and human bones are occaſionally found in the ruins.—There are alſo the remains of many pictiſh caſtles to be found interſperſed throughout this pariſh, and likewiſe ſeveral artificial cairns, ſome of a ſquare form, others circular. They are now covered with graſs or heath. Some of them are ſo high within,

exact diſtance between them is 9 feet 5 inches. Tradition alſo mentions his height to have been above 9 feet. He went with Lord Caithneſs, &c. to the Orkneys, where he, as well as the Earl and his ſon, were killed. This happened in the year 1530. The cauſe of the ſaid rebellion was this:—In the year 1530, King James V. granted the iſlands of Orkney to his natural brother James Earl of Murray, and his heirs-male. The inhabitants took umbrage that an over-lord ſhould be interpoſed between them and the ſovereign, and roſe in arms under the command of Sir James Sinclair of Sandy. Lord Sinclair Baron of Roſlin, and ——— Sinclair Earl of Caithneſs, were ſent with a party of men to quell the rebels; but the Iſlanders defeated them, and the Earl with his ſon, and William More Sutherland, who accompanied them, were killed. The Caithneſs men who ſurvived, carried back the Earl of Caithneſs's head, to be interred in his Lordſhips burial place in Caithneſs.

* The old caſtle at Achaiſtal was built and poſſeſſed by John Beg, third ſon to the Earl of Sutherland. In thoſe times parties of robbers or freebooters uſed to infeſt this county. A party of theſe came to John Beg's houſe, and inſiſted that he ſhould pay a certain ſum in name of tribute to them, otherwiſe they would plunder his houſe, and carry away his cattle. John Beg ſeemed very paſſive to them, and entertained them very ſumptuouſly, until he got them all intoxicated, by ſtrong ale mixed with the juice of *nightſhade*, when he ordered them to be conveyed to the upper apartments of his caſtle. He then removed his family and furniture, and put them on board a veſſel at the water mouth of Berrydale; and having collected a great quantity of ſtraw and bruſh-wood into the lower part of his houſe, he ſet fire to it, which ſoon deſtroyed the robbers, and conſumed all the caſtle, excepting a part of the walls. John Beg returned, with his family, to Sutherland. Tradition gives no account of the time in which theſe tranſactions happened.

within, that a perſon of an ordinary ſize may almoſt ſtand erect. The walls are well built, and covered with flags.

Caves, &c.—A great many caves are to be met with on this coaſt, ſome of which run up ſo far under ground, that none have been able to get to the end of them. They are inhabited by vaſt numbers of ſeals, many of which are killed by the inhabitants in the month of November, in their ſubterraneous habitations. The employment, however, is dangerous; for ſhould the wind blow hard from the ſea, theſe adventurers are in danger of being loſt.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—This pariſh has ſeveral advantages. The ſea coaſt, as has been obſerved, abounds with great variety of fiſh. The prices of labour and proviſions, although increaſed of late years, are ſtill reaſonable in compariſon of moſt other parts of the kingdom. As an act of Parliament has lately been obtained to convert the ſtatute labour into money, it is to be expected that good roads and bridges, of which there is much need, will be the happy conſequence. The want of harbours is a very great diſadvantage. There is not a proper one from Cromarty to Orkney. And the want of proper markets for the productions of the pariſh is another. The ſhortneſs of leaſes, and the want of incloſures, are alſo great impediments to induſtry and improvements in agriculture.—There are by far too many whiſky houſes in the pariſh, which is a great incitement to the lower claſſes of people, to hurt their health and morals, and to conſume their time and ſubſtance. The want of juſtices of the peace is another great diſadvantage. There is only one gentleman who acts in that capacity, in this very populous and extenſive pariſh. The conſequence of this is, that the police is very much neglected. If the caſe were

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otherwiſe, many grievances would be redreſſed, and many diſputes ſettled, without going before the ſheriff-court.—There is an old practice, which ſtill prevails in ſome places, and which is very detrimental to huſbandry. It is commonly termed *rig and rennet*. A number of tenants have their houſes perhaps cloſe to one another. Inſtead of every one having his land in one place, it is ſcattered here and there, ſeveral tenants having different ſhares in one field, or a rig a piece alternately. Beſides ſtopping the progreſs of improvement, wrangling and ſtrife among neighbours, in ſowing and reaping, are often the conſequences. If ſome manufactures were eſtabliſhed on this extenſive and populous coaſt, they would be of great conſequence to the inhabitants. If they drunk more beer and leſs whiſky, it would contribute greatly to their happineſs and comfort. Theſe, and ſome other diſadvantages, under which the inhabitants labour, will no doubt be remedied in due time *.

* As the boundaries between Caithneſs and Sutherland lie in this pariſh, it may not be improper to give the following account of them, as inſerted in M'Farlane's Geographical Collections. (A. M S. in the Advocates Library) vol. I. p. 198, where there is a deſcription of the pariſh of Latheron.

"The hill of the Ord is that which divides Sutherland and "Caithneſs. *The march is a ſmall rivulet, called the Burn of the "Ord*, which takes its riſe from ſome ſprings near the top of "the hill. The ſouth ſide of the hill is very ſteep, ſloping all "along to the top of a rock, which is many fathoms high. "Croſs the ſouth ſide of this hill is the common paſſage to and "from this country. The road hath not been ſo very dangerous as at firſt view it would appear to the traveller, for the "whole face of the hill to the top of the rock has been covered "with heath, ſo that though a perſon's foot might ſlip, he was "not in great danger; but whether through moor burning, or "ſome other accident, it hath happened ſome few years ago, "that the heath was all burnt, and now it looks more frightful "than formerly, but the road, by the pains of Sir James Sinclair of Dunbeath, is made ſo broad that 3 horſes can conve-

"niently

"niently ride it abreaſt. *A little to the eaſt of the Burn of the "Ord, which is the march*, there is a pleaſant green moat, called "the Dunglaſs, as high as the top of the rock. Since the "heath was burnt, paſſengers, who obſerve, may ſee the veſtiges "of a ditch, digged up from the ſaid Dun, all along the top "of the rock, until it come to a burn, near the top of the Ord, "called Aultnuder, a ſmall rivulet riſing from the moraſſes "about a mile above the top of the foreſaid rock. The top of "the Ord is large 9 miles of bad road to the ſouth-weſt of the "church."

This ſeems to put the matter beyond all doubt, in addition to which it may be obſerved, that the mountain of the Ord is expreſsly included in the charters of Langwell.

The people of Sutherland are ready to acknowledge that the burn of the Ord is the boundary, but ſome in the neighbourhood pretend, that they have acquired a ſervitude of common over the ground in the neighbourhood, though ſituated in the county of Caithneſs. But it ſeems impoſſible that charters, *reſtricted to lands in the county of Sutherland*, can be the means of acquiring even a right of common, over lands in another county, that of Caithneſs.

The Burn of the Ord is certainly the natural diviſion between the two counties; and until the roads were made, the cattle and ſheep of Sutherland could hardly get into Caithneſs at that place.

When the roads were made, it was agreed by both parties to begin at the burn of the Ord, as the point of diviſion between the two counties.

The point was incidentally decided at the Circuit Court, when the bridge was ordered to be built over the Burn of the Ord, as being the boundary.

Within theſe few years, Mr Howiſon, who rents the kelp ſhores on the eaſt coaſt of Sutherland, as is aſſerted on the authority of Mr Gordon, late of Auſdale, quarrelled his men for going farther than the Burn of the Ord, being beyond their right and privilege.

Many old men now living can ſufficiently prove the boundary in queſtion. William Campbell, late of Auſdale, an old man above 80, knew it well.

NUM-

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF PENCAITLAND.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON.—SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDALE.

By the Rev. Mr HENRY SANGSTER, *Miniſter of Humbie.*

Form, Extent, River, and Surface.

IT is nearly of the form of an oblong ſquare, extending about 4 miles from E. to W. and 3 from S. to N. The river Tyne, running in a direction from W. to E. divides it into 2 nearly equal parts, which riſe from it by a gradual and eaſy aſcent; and the ſouth, after riſing nearly to a level with the north part, ſlopes gently to the ſmall rivulet of Kinchey, which divides this from the pariſh of Ormiſton.

Soil, Cultivation, and Produce.—The ſoil in general is wet and clayey, and conſequently not adapted for the turnip ſyſtem. The old Eaſt Lothian mode of farming is to be met with here, and not the beſt mode even of it. Upon two farms, indeed, where the ſoil is fit for raiſing turnips, that ſyſtem is adopted, and, in the execution of it, there appears a great degree of ſkill and attention. One of them, poſſeſſed by Mr ALEXANDER WIGHT, writer to the ſignet, has exhibited, for ſome years paſt, a ſtate of cultivation not ſurpaſſed, if equalled, in any part of this county.

Farms and Rents.—Land lets from 12 s. to 36 s. per acre. The farms are of various ſizes: They are not too large, nor are they of that diminutive ſize, which, though it may give the appearance of population to a country, muſt prevent the markets from being ſupplied to that degree with grain, that is requiſite for the ſucceſs of manufactures, and will always produce a diſpirited and unſkilful tenantry. The valued rent is 6519 l. 8 s. 4 d. Scotch. The real rent may be ſomewhat above 3000 l. Sterling.

Minerals and Mineral Waters.—Free ſtone is found in many places, and there are two quarries of it for ſale. Coal abounds in this diſtrict. It has hitherto been dug only in two places, in the higher grounds; the one on the ſouth and the other on the north ſide of the Tyne. From theſe pits coal is obtained for a great part of the ſouth and eaſt diſtricts of this county, and a good deal is carried to Lauderdale. A pit has alſo been ſunk lately near the Tyne, and an engine is erecting for clearing away the water, as the ſeam of the coal lies much deeper than the bed of the water. Lime-ſtone may probably be found in many places; kilns, however, are erected only upon the eſtate of Pencaitland; and ſome idea may be formed of their extent, from the circumſtance of 45 cart-loads of coal, weighing each 15 cwt. being frequently uſed in the ſpace of a week for burning the ſtone.—There are ſeveral ſprings of water of the mineral kind. They have never met with much attention from the public; but are held in high eſtimation by the common people, for ſcorbutic diſorders.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The air is more ſalubrious than might be expected in a ſituation ſo low, with the Tyne, a muddy ſlow running water, paſſing through the middle of it, and

and many detached trees upon its banks, and in hedge-rows, in general through the pariſh. Local diſtempers are unknown. After a late or wet harveſt, putrid fevers, indeed, are prevalent; and in theſe caſes, the adminiſtrators of the poor's funds give aſſiſtance, where it is neceſſary, with their uſual humanity furniſhing medicines, and paying for the attendance of a ſurgeon.

Woods.—There are 155 acres of natural wood, conſiſting of oak and birch, and about 191 are planted with foreſt trees. Sir Andrew Lauder has kept a regiſter of the increaſed ſize of a number of trees near his houſe, and intends to continue it. The following is an extract from this regiſter:

	Feet.	*Inches.*
Girth of an elm *, in 1788, 3 feet above the ground - - - -	5	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of ditto, in 1793, - -	5	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Medium annual increaſe -	0	$1\frac{4}{5}$
Girth of an oak *, in 1788, at the ſame height,	3	6
Ditto of ditto in 1793, - -	4	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Medium annual increaſe -	0	$1\frac{13}{20}$

Around *Winton Houſe* † there are ſeveral uncommonly fine trees. Some beautiful artificial banks have alſo been formed near the houſe, at the time it was built; but the whole now, by being totally neglected, and though the ſite of the houſe is

** Both theſe trees were 40 years old, and each of them increaſed $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in one of theſe years.

† This was a ſpacious building, erected in the year 1619 for Lady WINTON, at the advice of a favourite of hers, an architect, when the Earl propoſed to her the alternative of an addition to her jointure, or a houſe, and ſhe choſe the latter.

is pleasant, has a *sombre* appearance, and instantly fills the mind of the spectator with the idea of the folly of engaging deeply in faction, whereby an estate, (of which this is a part), more valuable and more commodious than any other of the same size in Scotland, was lost for ever to its owners. The young woods on the estate of Fountainhall, it has been observed, have of late suffered much from squirrels, which were introduced some years ago at Dalkeith, and have spread to this neighbourhood. They have attacked the Scotch firs in the proportion of about 1 in 20, and almost every larix and elm. Already many of each of them are killed. If the harm they do in other places be as great, and be progressive as they multiply, this intended improvement will be unfortunate.

Population.—From the number of births registered during the last 10 years, compared with a like period at any time since 1750, it would appear that the population has been increasing in that degree which might be expected in a district like this, where the whole inhabitants are not employed in agriculture. This may be the more readily admitted as sufficient evidence of the fact, that in the country parishes, many of the common people, since the date of the tax upon the registration of baptisms, do not register the births in their families; a circumstance to be regretted, as it may, in the course of events, be attended with bad consequences to their posterity. From various enumerations, however, taken at different periods, it is certain that the increase has been by no means uniform, as will appear from the following table.

POPULA-

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF PENCAITLAND.

Number of ſouls, as returned to Dr Webſter in 1755	910
Ditto, as ſtated in an accurate liſt drawn up by Sir ANDREW LAUDER, (a reſiding heritor), in 1779	886
Decreaſe in 24 years	24
Ditto, by another accurate enumeration, in July 1793,	1033
Increaſe in 14 years *	147
Exact increaſe within theſe 38 years	123
Number of ſouls in the villages - - -	512
——————— in the country - - -	521

PROFESSIONS, &c.

Miniſter - -	1	Shoemakers - -	2
Heritors, reſident -	3	Tailors - -	5
Ditto, non-reſident -	4	Weavers - -	9
Farmers - -	9	Smiths - -	3
Maſons - -	4	Dyer - -	1
Carpenters - -	4	Bleacher - -	1
Colliers, and their families - -	110	Teacher - -	1
		Inn-keeper † - -	1

Roads.—The roads are not in good repair. This is to be accounted for, from the nature of the ſoil, a deep wet clay, the

* The increaſe during that period has been occaſioned chiefly by the houſes, lately erected by JOHN HAMILTON, Eſq; of Pencaitland, for his colliers, whoſe numbers, including their families, being 110, the increaſe, independent of that circumſtance, has been, during the above period, 37.

† The other inhabitants are employed in the lime-works, and the different occupations of huſbandry.

the diſtance from materials, the ſituation of the pariſh as a thoroughfare for the country, and eſpecially from the paſſage upon them for coal and lime from a great part of Eaſt Lothian. The county, however, have at laſt turned their attention to theſe particulars, and have this year allocated a conſiderable ſum for one, and erected a toll-bar upon another of the great roads; by means of which, it is expected they will be put into good repair, and prove, in that event, of much utility to the country. Notwithſtanding the bad ſtate in which the roads in general are, much has been done for them by Sir ANDREW LAUDER, on the ſouth ſide of the Tyne. From his accurate reports, given in annually to the juſtices of the peace, it appears, that, beſides the faithful application of the ſtatute money, he has, from the year 1770 to this preſent date (February 1794), expended 500 l. and in proportion for other roads, beſides thoſe on his own eſtate; and there is reaſon to believe, that a ſimilar expenditure may be expected from him for the future. Commendation is here by no means neceſſary, but a wiſh may perhaps be expreſſed, that proprietors in general would ſhew a like attention to that obvious fact, that good roads are the firſt and moſt beneficial improvement to a conntry.

Villages.—There are 4 villages, viz. *Eaſter* and *Weſter Pencaitlands*, *Winton*, and *Niſbet*. In theſe all the trades people reſide. In the village of Niſbet there are 2 weavers, who employ 8 looms for country work. They are the only weavers in the pariſh who are independent of the farmers, and conſequently employ additional hands. This little fact, perhaps, deſerves notice. In the formation of villages, proprietors have too generally favoured the introduction of trades people, from the ſole conſideration of raiſing their rent-roll, by letting a very few acres at a much higher rate than farmers

mers could pay for them. It would be better policy, as well as more gratifying to every liberal mind, to permit this neceſſary and important claſs of people, to ſit at very eaſy rents, and free from every ſervitude to the farmers. In this way they would feel themſelves comfortable, and be pleaſed with their ſituation. Farmers, and conſequently landholders, would reap eſſential advantages from the increaſe of their numbers, and their thriving condition; and there would be no neceſſity for their retiring to the great towns, and increaſing there, the maſs of an unhealthy and debauched rabble. The above 4 villages contain only 512 ſouls; but it is better that this number ſhould occupy 4 villages than one. There is a fallacy in the idea, that villages in the country are in a more thriving ſtate the more populous they become; for in the ſame proportion as they contain above 200 ſouls, they will be found to be declining, often in induſtry, and always in morals. Proprietors, therefore, in the country, who have proper ſtations for villages, would conſult utility as well as ornament, by the erection of two ſmaller, inſtead of one large village. And while they give every reaſonable encouragement and ſecurity to villagers, they ſhould be equally cautious relative to feus, as the proprietors of them, when neceſſarily removed, are too apt, rather than ſell their property, to let it to any beggar or vagabond.

Proviſions and Wages.—Proviſions of all kinds have riſen in their price one third completely, during the laſt 20 years. A hen coſts 1 s. a chicken 6 d. eggs 4 d. per dozen, butter 9 d. per pound, cheeſe 6 d. The riſe of wages has been proportional during the above period. A labourer receives daily 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. in ſummer. A young man fit for farm work, receives maintenance and 7 l. for the year. A farm ſervant, who lives in his own houſe, has an annual income

come of 14l. The wages of an able workman at the lime-kilns are 15 d. and, at piece work, he may earn 2 s. 6 d. The colliers are paid by the quantity of coal they throw out, and have a free houſe, together with coals for fuel. A collier, with a bearer, at the rate of working 4 or 5 days in the week, earns 65 l. annually. Theſe great profits, as might be expected, are, in general, thrown away in a very injudicious manner, which tends not a little to produce a ſcarcity, and to raiſe the price of coals at the pit. It were, therefore, to be wiſhed, now that they have got their liberty, that ſome meaſure could be taken, from which they might find it neceſſary to uſe it with more diſcretion. This general ſtricture applies by no means to the colliers on the eſtate of Fountainhall, ſome of whom are decent in their morals, and in affluent circumſtances. Perhaps the ſmallneſs of their number preſerves them, in ſome degree, from that diſſipation which ſo generally characteriſes that claſs of people, and on account of which alone, can they be deemed, by the public, unworthy of their great earnings.

Bleachfields and Mills, &c.—There is one bleachfield, and there are 1 lint, 1 ſtarch, 1 thread, 4 barley, and 4 corn mills. There are ſeveral threſhing mills, and one in particular built lately on the eſtate of Fountainhall, which is wrought by water, and, it is ſaid, performs ſome additional operations above any other hitherto erected. A conſiderable improvement is evidently obtained by theſe threſhing mills, when they are driven by water; but when horſes muſt be employed, it is not to be rated high. In this diſtrict there are many circumſtances favourable to the introduction and ſucceſs of manufactures; but here, as in the Lothians in general, this important national object meets with leſs attention than in other parts of Scotland, where difficulties, that

do

do not exiſt here, are encountered, and happily overcome *.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—Mrs HAMILTON of Belhaven is patroneſs.—The value of the living is 90 l.—The glebe is ſmall, but of excellent ſoil. The church is in good repair, and fitted up in a decent manner. No where are the people more regular in their attendance upon public worſhip; and, as the example of ſuperiors is never without its effect, this is to be aſcribed, in a great meaſure, to the attention which the reſiding heritors have paid to the public inſtitutions of religion. Their conduct, in this reſpect, is richly entitled to much praiſe, both in a political and moral view. The higher claſſes may act from a principle of *honour*; the lower never did, nor ever will. If theſe, therefore, are ſet free from the influence of a religious principle, no regulations which this age, enlightened as it is, may be pleaſed to ſubſtitute in its room, will command that *ſubordination*, without which there is an end of all order and happineſs in ſociety. Without the conſolations to be derived from their proſpects of future hap-

* An attempt was made, indeed, a few years ago, to eſtabliſh a woollen manufacture in this country, and many gentlemen and farmers became ſubſcribers, and were to be in the direction of it;—two circumſtances, either of which will always be fatal to any ſimilar undertaking. The nature of manufacture will not admit of ſpeculation, nor accord with aſſociations or extenſive beginnings. Succeſs is only to be expected, in any branch of manufacture, from perſons completely bred in that line, and invited, by favourable circumſtances, to commence it: And the more numerous, though ſmall, the beginnings, the better. An extenſive project, when it fails, and it frequently will, for obvious reaſons, impreſſes the public mind with the idea of the impoſſibility of carrying on any ſuch manufacture to advantage; whereas, in fact, nothing might have been more eaſy, if it had been conducted ſolely by a ſkilful individual, at his own riſk, and with a view to a moderate livelihood.

pineſs, they muſt feel themſelves miſerable under the preſſures of their preſent lot, and will readily look with envy at the more fortunate condition of others.—There are a very few ſectaries *, who have occaſionally come into this from neighbouring diſtricts.

School.—The average number of ſcholars is 50. The payments are, for reading, 1 s. 2 d.; for writing, 1 s. 6 d.; for arithmetic, 2 s. quarterly. The ſalary, which was 100 merks, was doubled ſome months ago by the heritors, upon a petition from the ſchoolmaſter. This is the more ſingular, as it was in this county that the oppoſition originated, againſt the requeſt of the ſchoolmaſters of Scotland, for ſome ſmall addition to their ſalaries. Such landholders as are averſe from this meaſure, are ſtill, it ſeems, to be informed of the good conſequences, that have followed from the education which the common people have received at their pariſh ſchools; otherwiſe they would not, probably, heſitate to raiſe theſe uſeful members of ſociety to a ſituation as lucrative, at leaſt, as that of a ploughman. It was no doubt a queſtion in policy, Whe-

* It is ſomewhat remarkable, that during the incumbency of the late Mr GEORGE ANDERSON, a period of 36 years, not one individual of his pariſhioners left the eſtabliſhed church. This fact, though not without a parallel, is to be accounted for, without doubt, from the prudence of his deportment, and the moderation of his principles, in conjunction with the example of the heritors. Indeed it will be generally found, that every clergyman, of a ſimilar deſcription, if aided by the attendance of the reſiding heritors upon the public ordinances of religion, will lead his hearers, in the ſpace of a few years, into the ſame train of thinking with himſelf. This, it may be hinted, is the meaſure to be employed for checking the Seceſſion, rather than having recourſe to *ſchiſm overtures*, or inquiries concerning the *growth of ſchiſm*, which have agitated the public mind at different times, and were better calculated, than any thing which the Seceders themſelves could have deviſed, for promoting the growth of ſchiſm.

Whether the common people ſhould receive education? Humanity revolts from the idea. Facts prove ignorance to be pernicious.

Poor.—The ſum expended annually for their ſupport is nearly, at an average, 70 l. In the year 1782, it was 112 l. None below 60 years of age are received upon the penſion liſt, as an admiſſion, it is thought, to an aliment that is certain, at an earlier period, might be unfriendly to their induſtry, and to the honeſt pride, which ought to be cheriſhed in the loweſt claſſes, of eating their own bread. When any, however, below that age, are in diſtreſs, they never fail to receive a proper ſupply; and the ſum given away in this manner, is not leſs than what is expended for the penſion liſt.—No where, probably, do the poor receive a larger allowance, or meet with more cordial attention. Indeed the funds of the pariſh, though they have entirely ariſen, excepting a donation of 100 l. from collections ſince the year 1704, are now ſo conſiderable as to ſupply theſe charitable demands, and preclude any chance of an aſſeſſment at a future period. The practice followed hitherto by the reſiding heritors, of not allowing the collections to be leſſened, by their occaſional *abſence from public worſhip*, has tended greatly to increaſe theſe funds. Were this practice to take place in other pariſhes, and to be adopted alſo by *non-reſiding* heritors, (and no good reaſon can be aſſigned why it ſhould not), it is likely that aſſeſſments, ſo much and ſo juſtly dreaded, would, in moſt caſes, be avoided: For though the farmers know they have only a temporary intereſt in theſe funds, and the loweſt claſs are aware that it belongs not to them, in any view of the matter, to maintain the poor, it is not to be doubted that both theſe claſſes would continue, as hitherto, from a religious

gious principle, to throw in their mite, if they saw a proportional contribution from the whole heritors.

Character and Mode of Living.—The people in general are satisfied with their condition, and are industrious. It is not remembered that an inhabitant of this parish has been punished by the civil magistrate for any crime. All of them can at least read the Bible; and the greatest part of the young men, whose parents could afford but little for their education, attend the schoolmaster in the winter evenings; who, for a small consideration, teaches them writing, and the common rules of arithmetic, by which means they acquire good habits, and become useful as farm and family servants.—The mode of living has become more expensive than formerly among the farmers.—The lowest class of people confine their taste and expence to their dress; and in this respect they are not behind others in the neighbouring districts. In consequence of this rage for finery, though much more harmless, in every view, than tea and dram drinking, (which pervade almost every town and great village), the common people, in the country through Scotland, will be found at present to be living almost as poorly as they did 50 years ago, when their income was one half less; for it is by no means to be placed to the account, (as some *seditious spirits* have of late shamelessly attempted to persuade us), of the burden of government taxes, which, it is well known to every person, duly informed about the matter, amount not to more annually than 2 s. 8 d. on the necessary articles of consumption, in the family of a farm servant, consisting of 6 persons.

NUM-

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF LECROPT.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNBLANE.—SYNOD AND COUNTIES OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

Drawn up by the Rev. Doctor JAMES ROBERTSON, *Minister of Callander, from Materials furnished by the Rev. Mr* JOHN KINROSS, *Minister of Lecropt.*

Etymology of the Name.

LECROPT is derived from two Gaelic words, which signify one *half firm* or *dry* land, alluding to the natural division of the parish into high and low, dry and wet soil. One half is upland or elevated ground, the other is a dead flat of clay land, which must have been one continued morass, when the sea retired from the extensive valley, in which the Forth now winds its way to the ocean.

Situation, Form, Rivers, Extent, Surface, &c.—About two thirds of this parish are situated within the county of Perth, and one third in the county of Stirling. Its latitude is 56°. 11′. N. and its longitude 47′. W. of Edinburgh.—Its form is not far removed from an equilateral triangle.—The river *Teath* bounds it on the S. W. where it meets the *Forth* and the *Allan* on the E. The southern point is where the Allan falls into the united streams of the other two. From E. to W.

W. it extends about 3 miles, and nearly about as much from N. to S. It contains about 2000 acres of ground, one half of which is a rich clay, the other half up-land, or what is generally called dry-field. The clay ſoil on the ſouth is divided from the up-land by a beautiful bank, which croſſes the pariſh, almoſt parallel to the north ſide, and nearly at one third of the diſtance between it and the ſouthern extremity. —In all the clay land there is not a ſingle ſtone or pebble; it is therefore incloſed and ſubdivided with hedge and ditch, or with open drains. The up-land, which is ſeparated from the carſe by the bank, and riſes backward with a gentle aſcent, is alſo incloſed, either with ſtone walls, or hedge and ditch.

Proſpect.—From the bank up Lecropt, there is one of the fineſt proſpects in this part of the iſland, which has been always admired by every perſon of taſte. The Forth, the Teath, and the Allan unite their ſtreams, and form the largeſt river in North Britain, in the champaign country, on the ſouthern borders of the pariſh. Their waving banks being clad with the richeſt crops, the ſnug ſteadings of farms, the hedges neatly trimmed, the lofty trees, through which the ſmoke aſcends from the dwellings, and the buſy hand of man, engaged in the various operations of agriculture, beautify and enrich the ſcene.—On the oppoſite ſide of this fertile valley, the Caſtle of Stirling rears its head in rude magnificence, on the ſummit of a rock, and leads the mind to review the hiſtory of years that are paſt, when it was the reſidence of the antient kings of Scotland. The huge rock of Craigforth on the one ſide of the Caſtle, and the Abbey Craig on the other, form, with the Caſtle itſelf, three vaſt and detached piles, about the diſtance of a mile from each other; and, like the pyramids

of

of Egypt, look down on an extenſive tract of flat country, where no other eminence intervenes *. The tower of the abbey of Cambuſkenneth, in one of the ſinks of the Forth, where the aſhes of the weak and unfortunate JAMES III. reſt in peace from the tumult of civil diſcord, and the conflict of contending factions;—the ſtately bridge of Stirling, through which the Forth holds his majeſtic courſe to the ocean; his long circuitous links, through innumerable farms and thriving villages, and the ſloops ſailing along theſe links in all directions, amidſt trees and houſes, feaſt the eye with the pleaſant proſpect, and delight the mind with the grateful idea of induſtry and of wealth.—The diſtant hills of *Dundaff*, on the ſouth-weſt, (ſtill the property of the deſcendants of that gallant hero who broke the Roman barrier), the hills of Falkirk on the ſouth, famous for the bloody rencounter between *Liberty and Deſpotiſm*; the green Ochils on the eaſt, piled on one another; *Ben-vor lich* † on the north; *Benledi* § and *Benlomond* § on the weſt, which raiſe their venerable heads to the clouds,

* Theſe maſſes, and all other detached rocks, and many of our mountain rocks, in this part of the world, preſent a rugged front uniformly to the weſt, and have a tail of earth in the oppoſite direction. The weſtern coaſt of Britain, and moſt other iſlands, preſent a bold ſhore of high rocks, while the land on the eaſt ſlopes generally by an inclined plane, and dips gradually into the ſea. The Britiſh rivers, for the moſt part, flow eaſtward. This is the caſe in many other countries, eſpecially in America. Whether this phenomenon be owing to the current of the general deluge, or to the direction in which the earth revolves round its axis, or to the eaſtern inclination of the country, is perhaps uncertain; but there appears to be no doubt, that it is owing to ſome general cauſe; and there is as little doubt, that a large ſtone, or a rock, in a river which is not very rapid, gathers a tail on that ſide to which the current flows.

† The mountain of great flags.

§§ For the etymology of theſe names, ſee the account of CALLANDER, Vol. XI. No. I.

clouds, all diverſify the landſcape, add grandeur to the proſpect, and prepare the ſoul for contemplation.

Soil, Cultivation, Minerals, &c.—The ſoil in the carſe has been rendered more productive, by draining the ſwamps, by laying a greater quantity of lime annually on the land than uſed formerly to be done, and by ſtreighting the ridges in ſeveral places. The ſoil in the higher grounds is in general loam upon a till bottom, and in many places a ſtiff till, without any mixture of loam, eſpecially where the land is ſpouty. A great part of the upland, ſo lately as 20 years ago, was covered with furze and broom, which have been grubbed out by the farmers, ſince the knowledge of improvement, and the deſire of induſtry have been introduced into this country; and their labour has been amply rewarded by abundant crops. The land, where furze uſed to grow, is now a ſtrong generous ſoil; and its ſtrength may in every caſe be eſtimated by the ſize and luxuriance of the whins, in its natural ſtate. The ſoil which carries broom, in its uncultivated ſtate, is not ſo ſtrong as the former; but it is a truſty ſoil, and will make good returns of the ordinary crops, when tenderly dealt with, and allowed occaſionally to reſt in graſs. Where whins and broom are mixed, the ſoil is ſtrong or light, in the degree in which either of theſe prevails; and to encourage the huſbandman ſtill farther, ſuch land ſeldom requires draining, where theſe plants are found. Blocks of granite have been blown in different places off the higher grounds, and removed at conſiderable expence; and land which was lately in a ſtate of nature, lets now at a guinea an acre in paſture. Where the ſoil was ſpouty, at the ſkirts of the hills, covered drains have been made; but in the clay land the drains are all open.

Climate,

Climate, Diſeaſes, and Longevity.—In the carſe, intermittent fevers were very frequent ſome time ago, occaſioned, principally, by the dampneſs of the country; but ſince the ground has been drained, and the inhabitants are more comfortably lodged and fed, all diſtempers, ariſing from a relaxed habit, are neither ſo common nor ſevere.—There is nothing extraordinary in the ſtature or longevity of the people. About the beginning of 1794, there died in the carſe a perſon aged 93. Several perſons, now alive, enjoy good health at the age of 80. The people in general are healthy and hardy, inured, from their infancy, to the laborious exerciſes of agriculture, which, by their improved ſtile of living, they are not only enabled to undergo with ſucceſs, but with comfort and eaſe.

Produce, &c.—The produce is wheat, barley, oats, peaſe, beans, clover, and rye-graſs; and in up-lands leſs wheat and beans, but in their place more turnips, flax, and potatoes of various kinds.—The wheat is ſown in the latter end of September, and during the whole month of October, uſually after ſummer fallow. The farmers begin to ſow peaſe and beans in February, and oats as early in March as the ſeaſon will allow. The ſowing of barley is generally finiſhed by the 1ſt of May. Potatoes are planted about the middle of May, which is alſo the ſeaſon for the barley ſeed time in the up-land. The turnips are ſown in June. The wheat yields about 10 bolls an acre, having 8 or 10 chalders of lime laid on the preceding fallow. The harveſt begins about the middle of Auguſt, and is finiſhed in 6 weeks thereafter, when the ſeaſon is favourable. The wheat ſells generally at 21 s. and ſometimes more, by the boll; the barley from 18 s. to 22 s.; meal commonly at 16 s. The barley is ſometimes ſown by itſelf, and ſometimes mixed with Cheſter bear. The oats,

moſt frequently cultivated in this pariſh, are the old Scotch kind. The Cupar Grange ſpecies is alſo introduced. The beans have always a mixture of about one-third of peaſe.

Wages and Prices of Proviſions.—Servants wages have riſen conſiderably within theſe few years. A bred ploughman cannot be hired for a year under 9 l. or 10 l.; a maid-ſervant charges 3 l. and upwards. Common labourers get 1 s. a day and their victuals. Beef ſells at between 4 d. and 5 d. per lib.; mutton commonly at 4 d.; a pair of good barn fowls at 2 s. 6 d.; eggs at 6 d. or 8 d. the dozen; butter at 10 d. the lib.; and cheeſe at 4 d.

Farm Houſes.—The farm houſes have lately undergone great improvements, owing to the general ſpirit of induſtry, and the deſire of convenience, which has been ſpreading for ſome years through this part of the kingdom, in every department of rural economy *. The dwellings are well lighted, and conſiſt of 3 or more apartments; and the farmers have generally a clock in every family, and other furniture in proportion, comfortable and convenient.—They have kilns for drying grain, with brick floors, and ſome with caſt iron floors.

Cattle.—In the carſe farms, few black cattle are kept, but they pay great attention to the rearing of horſes. In the more

* About 20 years ago, the houſes were meanly conſtructed, without light, without air, and without accommodation, which muſt have been very injurious to the health of the inhabitants, and, together with the wetneſs of the ſoil, proved the concomitant cauſes of premature old age, and of many local diſtempers. The late Archibald Stirling of Kier, and moſt of the other proprietors, at the end of the laſt leaſes, incloſed and ſubdivided the farms, built neat ſteadings of houſes in centrical places, and covered them with tiles or blue ſlates.

more elevated parts of the pariſh, the farmers rear more cows, and pay conſiderable attention to the dairy, which to them is a great ſource of profit. Their ſoil is well adapted for paſture, whereas the clay ſoil is more productive in bearing crops of grain. There is no mountainous ground in the pariſh, and therefore there are no ſheep farms; ſome large incloſures, which are let to graziers, are ſtocked with ſheep: And from the richneſs of their graſs, and their vicinity to the market, they make good returns.

Moſs.—It is evident, from a variety of circumſtances, that the flat land in this neighbourhood was formerly covered with a ſtratum of moſs. This moſs was compoſed of the deciduous parts of trees, which ſprung up from the rich bed of clay that was expoſed, when the ſea retired from that extenſive valley, in which the Forth flows from the head of Monteath to Borrowſtounneſs. Marine ſhells are found in the body of this clay. The roots of large trees are found adhering to its ſurface, and their trunks and branches are mingled with the moſs above; which is a ſufficient proof that there was no moſs when the trees were growing *.

Woods.

* By what cauſe thoſe trees, which in this valley are moſtly oak, were felled, is not, perhaps, ſo evident; but by whatever cauſe this took place, when the trees fell, the whole plain muſt have been an immenſe and wild moraſs, when the water from the higher grounds was interrupted in its progreſs, and rendered ſtagnant by leaves, and branches, and large logs of wood. The richneſs of the ſoil below would ſoon produce a rank growth of the long graſſes, and other plants peculiar to marſhy ground. When the ſurface was ſomewhat conſolidated by the annual decay of theſe plants, it would become a vaſt quag-mire, acquiring a gradual conſiſtency, enabling it to carry heath on the top. From being ſlow moſs it would become firmer, eſpecially at the ſides, where there was leaſt water, and where the moſs was leſs deep, by reaſon of the higher ground dipping into

Woods and Orchards.—There is a great variety of planted trees on the higher grounds, which thrive well, ſhelter the country,

to it by an inclined plane.—The rivers being ſcarcely able to force their way through this deſert, on which no four-footed creature durſt venture for a long tract of time, depoſited their tribute of ſlime, and meliorating particles of fine earth, upon the banks which produced a ſtrip of rich land along their courſe. Theſe ſtrips of fine arable land, on the brinks of the rivers, are ſtill diſcernible in all this country, while moſs, in many places, retains its antient poſſeſſion, between them and the higher grounds farther back, by which it is ſurrounded. It is alſo probable, that theſe banks of earth, formed on the verge of the rivers, contributed to hold back the water in the moraſs, and to increaſe its depth, or the altitude of the moſs, as they grew higher, by a continual acceſſion of more ſoil with every inundation.

This may be the manner in which all deep moſſes are formed. The thin ſtratum of moſs on dry ground, which is produced ſolely by the leaves, and other deciduous parts of heath, is entirely out of the queſtion. All moſſes, of any conſiderable depth, are found in beds of greater or leſs extent, according to the diſtance of the riſing grounds, or other obſtructions by which the moraſs was incloſed, wherein they were formed. It is an abſurdity to alledge, that peat earth grows, any more than other earth. No ſpecies of earth has vegetable life. It indeed produces plants which have vegetable life, and theſe plants, returning to their firſt principles, increaſe the mold. The plants which grow on dry ground, when not carried off, add to the ſtaple of the ſoil, and form a mold, ſimilar in its qualities to that on which they grew; and the plants, which are natural to land-locked moraſſes, (among which that plant, ſtrictly called *moſs*, is always to be found), the leaves, and branches, and bark of trees, where they happen to fall, uniformly produce a black mold, known by the name of *peat earth*.

In the middle of the carſe of Lecropt, there remained, till of late, 60 acres of moſs, originally formed in this manner. The people in the adjacent farms were in the practice of cutting peats from it, which rendered the moſs very irregular. The low moſs at the ſides was from 4 to 6 feet deep, and the high moſs in the middle from 7 to 10 feet. This moſs was, about 8 years ago, taken in leaſe from Mr Stirling of Kier, by a farmer in the neighbouring pariſh. He was baffled at firſt in many attempts to carry off the moſs; but by unwearied perſeverance

country, and are highly ornamental and uſeful. In this pariſh there are 10 orchards, 5 larger and 5 leſs, which, in favourable ſeaſons, yield a conſiderable quantity of apples, pears, and plumbs. There is alſo a large natural wood, moſtly of oak, which is cut twice in 24 years, and affords a plentiful and occaſional ſupply of timber for the various purpoſes of huſbandry. The only timber trees in the Carſe are ſaugh, which grow to a large ſize; and, when allowed to arrive at full maturity, the red is durable, and admits of a moſt beautiful poliſh.

Bees.—Several perſons in this pariſh have propagated bees with great ſucceſs. The numerous orchards, the extenſive plantations of trees, which abound with the ſaccharine juice, the large fields of beans, whoſe grateful flavour embalms the very air in the Carſe, and the up-lands adorned with variegated bloſſoms of clover and daiſies, and furze and broom, afford a plentiful ſupply to theſe induſtrious inſects; and the warmth of the Bank, ſo well ſheltered from the N. and running from E. to W. through the whole extent of the pariſh, affords them that cover which ſuits the delicacy of their frame, and cheriſhes their unceaſing induſtry.

Heritors,

rance he ſucceeded at laſt in carrying a ſmall rivulet about half a mile below ground, in wooden pipes, which conſiſt 4 of wooden boards, 1 foot in breadth, joined at right angles, and hooped with iron. In the ſpace of 4 or 5 years he cleared, by the aid of this ſtream, about 20 acres down to the clay. This land produces fine crops of oats, and, by being properly wrought, and turned up frequently to the enriching influence of the air, there is no doubt of its carrying any other ſpecies of crops, known in the clay land around it. But, to the unſpeakable loſs of his family, this ingenious and induſtrious man, whoſe name was MURDOCH, was loſt about 2 years ago, within a few yards of his own houſe, in paſſing the Forth; and ſince his death, the improvements on the moſs have gone on but ſlowly.

Heritors, Rents, &c.—The heritors are 5 in number, none of whom reſide within the pariſh. More than one half of the pariſh belongs to JAMES STIRLING, Eſq; of Kier, whoſe reſidence has a commanding proſpect on the Bank of Lecropt, within a mile of the church. This family has been long and juſtly reſpected, by all ranks, for the qualities which adorn human nature in the higher ſpheres of life. They have embelliſhed the place of Kier, by well dreſſed lawns and extenſive plantations; they have given bread to the poor, in carrying on theſe improvements; and have, by their example and influence, diffuſed a ſtile of huſbandry and cultivation through this country formerly unknown. The number of farms is 25; and their extent is from 40 to 100 acres each. There are 7 pendicles, conſiſting of from 3 to 14 acres. There are 20 cottages, occupied by labourers and married ſervants. The land in the Carſe lets, on an average, at 20 s. the acre; and the average rent of the up-land is 12 s. The valued rent of the pariſh is 2200 l. Scotch. The real rent is not exactly aſcertained.

Population.—The population of the pariſh has rather been on the decreaſe ſince the farms began to be enlarged. The population in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter, was 577
The number of ſouls at preſent (1794) is - - 420

Decreaſe 157

The number of families is - - - 80

Employments.—The people are employed, for the moſt part, in the various operations of huſbandry, as farmers, ſervants, and labourers. There are 2 weavers, 1 ſmith, and 1 millwright; but neither taylor, ſhoemaker, ſurgeon, nor lawyer, in the pariſh.

Fiſheries.

Fiſheries.—The cruives of Craigforth are placed on a ledge of rocks, which extend acroſs the Forth, having one end in this pariſh, and the other in the pariſh of St. Ninian's. The tide flows up to this ledge; which circumſtance renders it a proper ſtation for a fiſhing of this kind. A great number of ſalmon is taken, when the cruives are kept in proper repair. Salmon are alſo taken on the Teath and on the Allan, beſides trouts, pikes, and perches.

Village, Manufactures, Mills, &c.—There is only one village, called *the Bridge of Allan*, which conſiſts of 28 families. None of the tenements are feued. They are all the property of Mr Stirling of Kier. The villagers are variouſly employed, miniſtering to the convenience of the country. There is, particularly, a brewery for malt liquor, where ſtrong ale, ſmall beer, and porter, are made.—This village is ſituated on the Allan, a river more remarkable, at this place, for its romantic ſcenery, of a deep glen covered with a variety of wood, and its tumultuous current, than for the quantity of its water. The Allan, within a ſhort ſpace, drives ſeveral mills, for meal, barley, and flour. There are, particularly, 3 mills for making a coarſe paper, known by the name of *Callender paper*, which clothiers uſe in preſſing cloth. The village has alſo the advantage of being ſituated in a plentiful country, near coals, and at the ſeparation of the two great military roads, the one going by Callander, to the weſt of Scotland, and the other, by Crieff, to the north: So that no ſituation ſeems to be better adapted for erecting a village on a large ſcale.

Sources of Profit.—The farmers in the clay land, who have lime in abundance near at hand, and for a moderate price, make their returns moſtly by their grain. In the upland, the farmers have not only the ſame command of lime, but

ſhell

ſhell marl, and make their returns partly by grain, and partly by the produce of the diary, and by fattening cattle for the market. The women ſpin woollen yarn, which ſells, when trade is good, at 2 s. the ſpindle, for making ſtockings, ſhalloons, and plaids.

Roads.—The great roads in this pariſh are but indifferent; but a toll is ſoon to be erected on that leading northward, which will enable the gentlemen to pay more attention to the other great road, and to the bye-roads, which ſtand much in need of repair. The roads in the Carſe are ſcarcely paſſable in winter. The ſtatute labour is not commuted.

Eccleſiaſtical ſtate.—The church and manſe are beautifully ſituated on the face of the riſing ground, above the Carſe, and command a rich and extenſive proſpect, already taken notice of. The church, which is in good repair, is an old Gothic building *, conſiſting of a nave and choir, 72 feet in length; the nave being only 14 feet broad, and the choir but 11. The ſteps to the altar are ſtill viſible; and the ſacred font is quite entire. The manſe is commodious, and in good repair. The glebe conſiſts of 7 acres of fertile land, properly incloſed. The ſtipend is 48 l. 19 s. 2½ d. in money, 43 bolls of meal, and 23 bolls of barley. Mr STIRLING of Kier is patron.

Religious Perſuaſions.—The town of Stirling was the original ſeat of the ſeceſſion from the eſtabliſhed church; and, from

* It was formerly a chapel annexed to the biſhopric of Dunkeld, although it be ſituated within the dioceſe of Dunblane, and only 2 miles from the biſhop's ſeat. The curate was eſtabliſhed at Lecropt, to be a check on the biſhop of Dunblane; which practice it ſeems, from ſimilar inſtitutions, was not uncommon in theſe times.

from a variety of cauſes, the peculiar tenets of that perſuaſion took early a deep root in this neighbourhood. A great variety of opinions have ſprung up ſince that period. We have Burghers, Antiburghers, Cameronians, Bereans, and perſons who adhere to the preſbytery of Relief. But it ought to be remarked to their credit, that perſons entertaining all theſe different opinions live with thoſe of the eſtabliſhed church, and with one another, in friendſhip and brotherly love. The acrimony of ſpeech, the ſourneſs of temper, the ſhyneſs of intercourſe, and the reluctance to perform good offices, which characteriſed religious parties ſome years ago, have now given place to Chriſtian benevolence, and the ſweet intercourſe of ſocial affection. The intolerant heat of party zeal has become more moderate; and the mild ſpirit, which the goſpel breathes, poliſhes the ferocity of nature, and ſmooths the ruggedneſs of the human heart. Men have diſcovered, what they ought always to have known, that their opinions, with regard to ſpeculative points, are often as different as their faces; and that the harmony of ſociety, and the intercourſe of life, ought not to be interrupted by the one more than by the other; that meekneſs and forbearance become Chriſtians; that rudeneſs of manners is different from purity of morals; that aſperity of temper is no mark of ſoundneſs in the faith; and that it is a precept of the higheſt authority, to "*love one* "*another.*"

School and Poor.—The ſchool is well taught. The fees are moderate; for Latin and arithmetic, 2 s.; for Engliſh, one merk Scotch, or 1 s. $1\frac{4}{12}$ d.; for writing, 1 s. 6 d. Book-keeping and mathematics are alſo taught. The ſalary 100 l. Scotch, with the perquiſites ariſing from the offices of precentor and ſeſſion clerk.—There are no begging poor; but a few poor houſeholders are comfortably maintained, without

any regular assessment, by the interest of 100 l. a fund allotted for that purpose, together with the weekly collections.

Antiquities.—An artificial eminence, on the east side of this parish, seems to have been a post of the Romans, near their great road to the church at Ardoch. KIER, already so often mentioned, is one of a chain of rude forts, (which are all called *Kiers*), that run along the north face of the Strath, or Valley of Monteath. These forts are at present in ruins, and are discernible to strangers only by knolls of a green surface, covering a great heap of loose stones *; but well known to the inhabitants of the country, who carry away the stones for building inclosures and houses. One of these forts was situated at the place of Kier. There are also Kiers at *Achinsalt* †, at *Borland* ‡, at *Balinackader* §, at *Tar* ‖, and in many other places in that direction, all similar to one another, in respect of situation, construction, prospect, and materials; which is a strong presumption at least, if not a clear proof, that their use was the same **. There is, in the neighbourhood of the church

* They seem to have been constructed mostly with dry stones, dug from the quarries near them, because no other cement, except clay or mud, was known in this part of the world, at the time they were built. They were uniformly situated near a spring of water, or a running brook, and commanded an extensive prospect towards all points except the north, from which quarter, it is probable, no danger was apprehended.

† *The field of the good prospect*; commanding the country from the moor of Dumbarton to Queensferry.

‡ *The land of hills.* *Bor* and *tor* signify a hill; hence all the torreys are hilly.

§ *The fuller's town.*

‖ *The groin.* All the *tars* are at the bottom of hills.

** It appears highly probable, that this chain of forts was built

church of Lecropt, a hill, where the baron uſed to hold his court, during the prevalence of the feudal ſyſtem. The Gallow Hill is near the Court Hill *.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The advantages are, our vicinity to the market of Stirling, where the pariſhioners can purchaſe any commodities they ſtand in need of, and get a good price and ready money, for whatever they can ſpare for ſale. They are near plenty of coal, which contributes to their domeſtic comfort; and abundance of cheap lime enables them to improve their ground.—Bad roads are a great diſadvantage. Another inconvenience, no leſs ſeverely felt, is the want of good water in the Carſe. There is but one ſmall rivulet in the pariſh, which is employed in carrying away the moſs. There are ſome ſprings immediately below the Bank, at

built by the Caledonians, to watch the motions of the troops ſtationed on the Roman wall, betwixt Borrowſtounneſs and Old Kilpatrick, begun by AGRICOLA after his irruption into the north in the year 79, and completed by ANTONINUS PIUS. The Caledonian line was about 3 or 4 hours march, in moſt places, from the Roman wall; and this chain of forts, whether it was conſtructed by GALGACUS, who was no leſs ſagacious than brave, or by his ſucceſſor, was planned with conſummate judgment, not only for the reaſons already mentioned; but becauſe this is the narroweſt tract of Scotland that the Romans ever viſited, and therefore the moſt eaſily defended, and alſo, becauſe there are few fords in the river, which runs in the ſtrath lying on the ſouth; and, if Moſs Flanders then exiſted, it muſt have been an impaſſable moraſs, and a good barrier, as far as it extended, on the Caledonian frontier.

* According to the ſummary proceedings of thoſe times, *ſentence* of death, *execution*, and *interment*, followed one another in ſuch rapid ſucceſſion, that graves, gallows hills, and *mòt*, or court hills, are found contiguous, not only here, but every where elſe. The court hills are called mòts, or mòt hills, from the Gaelic word *mòt*, or *mòd*, which, to this day, is the only word for a *court of judicature* in that language.

at the head of the clay land; but in this, and all other large tracts of horizontal land, whatever be the nature of the soil, there can be no springs, for a very obvious reason.

Character, Dress, &c.—The people are remarkable for their decency and sobriety. None have been banished, or have suffered the higher pains of law, in any other respect, for misconduct, in the memory of man. Remote from the temptations and lurking places of great towns, where the profligate expect to elude the eye of the world, and to escape the lash of the law, in a crowded population, every man considers himself as known to his neighbours, and that he has both his own reputation, and the credit of his ancestors, to support by his conduct. Habits of industry have become familiar to the people, whatever object they have in view. In literature they have not been deficient, when their genius led them to the pursuit of study, and the improvement of the mind. One minister, one preacher, and three students, now alive, drew their first breath in this parish.—A remarkable change has lately taken place in the article of dress. The love of show is natural; and imaginary wants are sometimes no less clamorous than those which are real. But, if the increase of their earnings do not furnish the labouring part of mankind with this increase of luxury, their savings, upon which they are to begin the world, must be less at present than when their wages were more moderate, and their clothing less expensive.

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF PRESTON-PANS.

(COUNTY OF EAST LOTHIAN.—PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON.—SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN TROTTER, *Miniſter.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

ABOUT a quarter of a mile to the ſouth of Preſton-pans ſtands the village of PRESTON, which, though at preſent but ſmall, was formerly of conſiderable extent. When ſalt pans were erected in its neighbourhood, they would naturally be diſtinguiſhed by its name. The building of the town of Preſton-pans is ſuppoſed to have taken place after that of the ſalt pans. In the laſt century, and at the beginning of the preſent, the town was commonly named *Salt-Preſton.* Of the origin of the name of Preſton, nothing ſatisfactory can be traced.—This pariſh is near 3 miles in length. Its greateſt breadth is about one. Ravenſhaugh Bourn, which is the boundary of the pariſh on the weſt, divides the county of Eaſt Lothian from that of Mid Lothian.

Erection, Soil, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—There are two baronies, the Eaſt Barony and the Weſt. The charter erecting the Eaſt Barony, was granted in favour of Sir JOHN HAMILTON of Preſton, A. D. 1617. By it Preſton and Preſton-pans

pans are erected into a burgh of barony, with the usual liberties and privileges. The West Barony is that of Preston-Grange. The writer of this account has not been able to learn in whose favour, or at what period, the charter erecting it was granted.—The soil is loam; part heavy, on a clay bottom; part light, on a sandy or gravelly bottom. The climate is mild. There are no local distempers. The most prevalent are fevers, chiefly those of the putrid and nervous kind. The gravel is said to have been very common about 40 or 50 years ago.

Agriculture.—The rotation of crops, most approved of at present, is a white and green crop alternately. Fallowing is little practised. The land is cleared of weeds, by sowing in drills, and horse-hoeing the interstices; and women are often employed to pick them out with the hand. The land designed for wheat is ploughed as soon as it is cleared of the preceding crop. If the land is heavy, the wheat is sown about the middle of October; if light, about the beginning of Nov. The land designed for oats, pease, and beans, is plowed in February. Oats are sown about the end of March and beginning of April. If the land is dry, pease and beans are sown in drills as early as possible in February; when broadcast, they are sown early in March. When pease and beans are to be sown in drills, sometimes the land gets two plowings, the first after harvest, the second at the time of sowing, the seed being thrown into every third furrow. The land designed for barley is three times plowed. The first plowing takes place immediately after harvest; the second in the spring, as soon as the land is dry, commonly at the end of March or beginning of April. If the land be sufficiently dry, March is reckoned preferable. After this second plowing it is harrowed. The third plowing takes place

in

in May, about the beginning of the month, if the land be heavy; about the middle, if it be light. Scotch barley is uſually ſown about the beginning of May in heavy lands; later in proportion as they are lighter; and in the lighteſt, not till the end of May. Potatoes are planted commonly after the ſecond plowing of the barley land, though the beſt ſeaſon is reckoned to be about the end of April or beginning of May. Turnips are ſown the firſt or ſecond week of June. When the land has not been ſummer fallowed, one boll of wheat or barley, one boll and half of peaſe at leaſt, and rather more than 5 firlots of oats, are ſown upon an acre; when ſummer fallowed, ſomewhat leſs than 3 firlots of wheat or barley; when graſs ſeeds are ſown, an acre takes about 16 or 18 lib. weight of clover, and one peck of rye-graſs. Dung is the chief manure. The quantity requiſite for an acre is about 26 two-horſe cart-loads of good ſtable dung. The land inclining to clay requires ſomewhat more; lighter lands, rather leſs. On good lands dung ſerves for four crops in the ordinary rotation. The price of ſtable dung is from 2 s. to 3 s. 6 d. per cart load, of ſtreet dung 1 s Horſes alone are employed in huſbandry work. Horſe-hoeing was introduced about 24 years ago, and has been practiſed ever ſince. Small's plough with two horſes is generally uſed. The harveſt begins uſually about the laſt week of Auguſt, and ends on the firſt or ſecond week of October. In the year 1785, early oats were introduced here. They were ſown on the 5th of April, and reaped on the 21ſt of July. In the year following they were ſown on the 31ſt of March, and reaped on the 25th of July. The harveſt for the other grain was in the ſame proportion later than in the former year. Theſe oats, being ripe ſo much ſooner than the other kinds of grain, ſuffered ſo greatly from the birds, that the ſowing of them was diſcontinued.

Pro-

Produce.—The produce of grain per acre, on ordinary land, as well as on the beſt ground, is reckoned to be nearly in the following proportions:

	Annual Medium Produce. *Bolls per Acre.*		*Ditto of the beſt Land.* *Bolls per Acre.*
Wheat	9	—— ——	13 or 14
Barley	7	—— ——	12 or 13
Oats	8	—— ——	15
Beans	9	—— ——	15
Peaſe	6	—— ——	10
Peaſe and beans	8	—— ——	
Potatoes	30 or 6 tons	——	50
Hay	230 ſtones	——	300 ſtones.

Rents and Incloſures.—The rent of land is from 1 l. 11 s. to 3 l. 10 s. per acre. Almoſt all the pariſh is incloſed. Walls built of ſtone and mortar form a great part of the incloſures. They are an immediate fence, take up leſs room than hedges, and afford no ſhelter to birds. The common height is 4½ feet above the ſurface. The price of building is 3 l. 5 s. per rood, materials furniſhed by the builder. Incloſures have conſiderably increaſed the rent of the lands. The ſtate of property has been fluctuating. Within the preſent century, the whole lands in the pariſh, with the exception of 4 or 5 acres, have been ſold once, and ſome of the eſtates much oftener.

Wages and Prices of Labour.—The uſual wages of a man ſervant, living in the family, are 5 l. Sterling per annum; of a maid ſervant, 3 l. Sterling; of a man ſervant, out of the houſe, 6½ bolls of oat-meal, in money and other perquiſites from 5 l. 16 s. to 6 l. 11 s. 6 d.; a free houſe of 10 s. or

12 s.

12 s. value, and diet in harveſt; of a day-labourer, employed during the whole ſeaſon, 10 d. per day, when occaſionally employed, 1 s.; of women employed in weeding grain, 5 d.; of a man in harveſt, 10 d. and diet valued at 6 d.; of a woman in harveſt, 7 d. and diet, valued as above; of a maſon, 1 s. 8 d.; of a carpenter, from 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 10 d.; of a taylor, 6 d. and diet; plowing an acre of ground coſts 10 s.; harrowing ditto, 2 s.; cutting ditto of graſs, 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d.; cutting ditto of grain, 6 s.; reapers, however, are ſeldom hired to work by the piece.

Prices of Grain and Proviſions.—The price of grain is, in a great meaſure, regulated by the higheſt fiars of Eaſt Lothian. Beef ſells from 3 d. to 4½ d. per lib.; mutton and veal, from 3 d. to 5 d.; pork, from 3 d. to 4 d.; good lamb, from 1 s. to 3 s. per quarter; fowls, 1 s. ſometimes more; pigeons, from 2 s. to 3 s. per dozen; eggs, from 4 d. to 8 d. per dozen; butter, at the beginning of the ſeaſon, 1 s.; it is ſeldom under 9 d. per lib. 20 ounce Dutch.

Manufactures.—There are at preſent 10 *Salt Pans* in the pariſh, but only 6 are wrought. When the weather is dry, and the coal good, a pan may be drawn 5 times in a week. Each draught requires 3 fillings of water, and yields, in ſummer, about 18 buſhels †, in winter about 16. The difference is owing to the ſea water being ſtronger in ſummer than in winter: For the ſame reaſon, in winter it requires 26 or 28 hours to a draught; in ſummer only 20 or 22. The proceſs is ſometimes retarded by the badneſs of the coal. When the ſea water is good, a Scotch gallon of it will yield of ſalt nearly one lib. Avoirdupois. The draught conſumes

† A buſhel of ſalt contains 8 gallons, and weighs 56 lib. Avoirdupois.

from 18 to 26 bolls of ſmall coal or culm. The price of the coal is about 8 d. per boll, when laid down at the pan. Two men are employed in working a pan; their joint wages from 17 s. to 20 s. per week. From the time the ſalt is drawn till it is ſold, the waſte by lying in the girnel is computed at 1 buſhel in 10. The better the ſalt is made, the waſte is the leſs. When it is conveyed by land, a high wind occaſions a greater waſte than a moderate rain. Three buſhels in 40 were formerly allowed for waſte, when it was carried coaſtways. A late act of Parliament reduces the allowance to 1 in 40. The original coaſt of a ſalt pan amounts to about 300 l. Sterling; and once in 3 years it coſts about 40 l. for repairs. The price of ſalt at preſent, duty included, is 3 s. per buſhel. The average made in this pariſh, during the 5 laſt years, is 10,750 buſhels 4 gallons per year.

A manufacture of *ſtone ware* is carried on a little to the weſt of the church. It commenced about 40 years ago, and belongs to Meſſrs. Cadell. White ſtone ware, and cream coloured ware, (of late the laſt chiefly) are manufactured. About 40 men, and upwards of 30 boys, are employed. The wages of the men are from 6 s. to 15 s. per week. Some of them, when working by the piece, earn more than 15 s. The wages of the boys are from 1 s. to 2 s. per week. The boys are taken at 8 years of age, and continue till they are 14 or 15, when they are either bound as apprentices, or go to other occupations. About 24 tons of coals are conſumed per week; the price is 5 s. 6 d. per ton, when laid down at the work. The clay uſed in the manufacture is brought from Devonſhire, the flint from Graveſend; white and red lead from London, Hull, and Newcaſtle. The price of the clay is 10 s. per ton, freight 14 s. per ditto; the price of the flint is 18 s. and 20 s. per ton, freight 8 s. per ditto. Fire clay is found in great plenty in the neighbourhood. This manufacture

facture circulates upwards of 25 l. per week. At Moriſon's Haven there is another manufacture of the ſame kind, with the addition of *brown ware* *. About half the number of men and boys are employed as at the former. Clay for the brown ware is found hard by the work. A third manufacture of the above articles was carried on at the Cuttle, but has been diſcontinued for a year or two; it is, however, about to be reſumed. The ſales, for articles of earthen ware, are computed at upwards of 5000 l. *per annum*. Beſides the Scotch market, the ware is exported to moſt of the ſea ports in Europe, to the Weſt Indies, and to North America.—There is a *brick and tile work* adjoining to the old churchyard. Six men are employed. The wages of each, at a medium, are 1 s. per day. This ſeaſon 13 kilns were fired with tiles, each kiln containing 10,000. Of bricks 107,000 were made. Each kiln with tiles conſumed 21 cart-loads of coals, at 3 s. 6 d. per cart-load of 12 cwt. One cart load, partly great coal, partly culm, is required, at an average, for 3000 bricks. A little to the weſt of the above there is another tile-work by the ſea-ſide, where 9 kilns were fired, each kiln containing 9000 tiles, and conſuming 20 cart-loads of coals. Three men are employed at 7 s. each per week. Tiles, including a duty of 8 s. are ſold at the rate of 2 l. 13 s. per thouſand. Bricks, including a duty of 2 s. 6 d. at the rate of 17 s. 6 d. per thouſand.

A manufacture of *oil of vitriol*, *aquafortis*, and *ſpirit of ſalt*, is carried on here †. For many years it was confined almoſt ſolely

* It is near 100 years ſince the manufacture of brown ware commenced in this pariſh. Towards the end of the laſt century, a glaſs-houſe for bottles was erected at Moriſon's Haven. The manufacture was carried on for ſome years, but did not ſucceed.

† It commenced *anno Domini* 1750, under the direction of Meſſrs

ſolely to the oil of vitriol; of late it has been extended to the other articles above mentioned, as well as to *white aſhes* and *Glauber ſalts*. Upwards of 50 men are employed about the works. Some of them are occupied during the day, and ſome of them during the night; becauſe great part of the operations require conſtant attendance. They are bound under indentures for 21 years, during which time they are paid weekly 6 s. for ſtated wages, with a proportional allowance for extra work, in which they are frequently employed. Brimſtone and ſaltpetre are the raw materials uſed in the manufacture of oil of vitriol. The ſaltpetre is purchaſed chiefly at London at the Eaſt India Company's ſales. The brimſtone is imported from Leghorn. About 60 tons of coals are conſumed per week. Each bottle of oil of vitriol contains, at a medium, 140 lb. Engliſh weight; of aquafortis, about 100 lb.; of ſpirit of ſalt about 100 lb. The prices of the articles vary according to the price of the materials. At preſent oil of vitriol is ſold at $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; aquafortis at from $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 10 d. per lb.; ſpirit of ſalt at 6 d. per lb. with 3 s. for each bottle and baſket; Glauber ſalts at 12 s. per cwt.; white aſhes at 1 l. 8 s. per cwt. None of the laſt mentioned article, however, is now made. The Company ſell alſo Manganeſe in powder. This article is made uſe of in the new method of bleaching. Oil of vitriol is reckoned beſt, when it is of the colour of pure water. Beſides the home ſale to bleachers and printers, theſe different articles are exported to various places in Europe. The preſent firm of the Company is, *The Preſton-pans Vitriol Company*.

Fiſheries.

Meſſrs Roebuck and Garbet; but has paſſed, ſince that time, into other hands.

Fiſheries.—The chief fiſhery is that of *oyſters.* There are at preſent 10 oyſter boats belonging to the pariſh. Each boat requires 5 men; but the profits are divided into 6 ſhares, one ſhare being applied for upholding the boat. There are not, however, above 23 regular fiſhermen; all the others work occaſionally on land or ſea, as they find moſt for their advantage. A boat ſeldom returns with more than 400 or 500, often with fewer *. The preſent price is 15 d. per hundred. A hundred, as ſold by the fiſhers, contains 33 *warp*, equal to ſix ſcore and twelve. The retail hundred contains only 30 warp. Four oyſters make a warp. Three or four times in a ſeaſon, a boat ſails with a cargo of them, to

* About 20 years ago, the ſcalps were ſo productive that 6000 oyſters and upwards were frequently dragged by one boat in a day. The price at that time was 6 d. per hundred. Beſides the conſumption in the neighbourhood, they were exported to Newcaſtle, Hull, and London. A merchant at Leith, in the year 1773, contracted to ſhip oyſters on commiſſion for London. He purchaſed for 10 different companies, and for 10 years paid 2500 l. Sterling *per annum* for oyſters. The value of the home conſumption was eſtimated to be ſtill greater. Forty boats were then employed, of which 16 belonged to Cockenzie in the pariſh of Tranent; 16 to Preſton-pans, Cuttle, and Weſt Pans; and 8 to Fiſherrow. The oyſters for the London market were packed in barrels. Twelve veſſels were employed in the trade, from the middle of January to the middle of May. Each veſſel carried, at a medium, 320 barrels; each barrel was ſuppoſed to contain 1200 ſizeable oyſters. A pattern was given to every boat, with injunctions to barrel none of a ſmaller ſize; but theſe injunctions were far from being ſtrictly obſerved. Thirty cargoes have been ſhipped in a ſeaſon. The oyſters were dropt in bays at the mouth of the Thames and Medway, and other grounds, to fatten until the fall, when they were dredged and ſent to market. This trade was given up in the year 1786, owing to the ſcarcity and advanced prices of oyſters, the price having riſen from 4 s. 6 d. to 7 s. and 8 s. per barrel. During ſome of the laſt years in which it was carried on, part of the cargoes were made up of oyſters from Newhaven. The ſcalps were greatly exhauſted by this trade.

to the number of 30,000, ſometimes 40,000, to Newcaſtle. It is an open boat *, manned with 6 men. It brings no cargo homewards; being open there is nothing to defend goods from damage. The preſent price at Newcaſtle is 2 s. per hundred. Oyſters are carried to Glaſgow by land. Two carriers, with 4 one-horſe carts, come from Glaſgow to Edinburgh with goods, and return loaded with oyſters, which they purchaſe at Preſton-pans and Cockenzie. The medium is about 9000 in each cart. Oyſters are found on a ſtrong clay bottom, on rocks and ſtones. and ſometimes, though but thinly, in what is called by the fiſhers *ſea tathe*. Theſe laſt are of a very inferior quality. Thoſe caught neareſt to the town are uſually the largeſt and fatteſt; hence the large ones obtained the name of *Pandoors*, i. e. oyſters caught at the *doors* of the *pans*. The ſea water, a little freſhened, is reckoned the moſt nouriſhing to oyſters. This may be one reaſon why thoſe caught near to the town and ſhore are ſo large. Sand is prejudicial to them. The fiſhers dredge from 4 to 15 fathoms depth of water. When they drive the dredge, they begin the oyſter ſong, which they ſing till the dredge is hauled up. The large oyſters are picked out and kept; thoſe that are too ſmall for preſent uſe, are thrown back into the ſea. An oyſter is reckoned ſizeable, when its ſhell is an inch and a half in diameter. Buckies, clams, ſea-urchins, ſtar-fiſh, and corſe-fiſh, are found in the oyſter beds. The two laſt mentioned, eſpecially the corſe-fiſh, prey on oyſters, and likewiſe on muſcles. The ſcalps reach from the ſhore about 6 miles into the Frith, and extend both to the eaſt and weſt of the boundaries of this pariſh. In May the oyſters caſt their *ſpat* or ſpawn. They are ſickly in June and July;

* This voyage was once performed in 13 hours. The boat ſailed from Port Seton harbour at 3 o'clock in the morning, and arrived at Newcaſtle at 4 in the afternoon of the ſame day.

July; but recover in Auguſt. For this reaſon, the proper ſeaſon for dredging commences on the 1ſt of September, and ends on the laſt of April. The common obſervation is, that the oyſter ſeaſon laſts during all the months in which the letter R occurs. But the fiſhers have not confined themſelves ſtrictly to theſe months; and this is another cauſe of the ſcarcity *. That the ſcalps may recover, it would be proper to dredge very ſparingly for a year or two, to take no oyſters but ſuch as are ſizeable, and at no time to dredge in the months of May, June, July, and Auguſt. The young fry are ſaid to acquire ſhells in 24 hours; but do not become ſaleable in leſs than 2 or 3 years. Oyſter ſhells make an excellent lime, remarkable for its whiteneſs. They are uſed likewiſe as a medicine.—Beſides oyſters, many other kinds of fiſh † are caught in their ſeaſon; cod, ſkate, flounders, whitings, mackerel, lobſters, and crabs.

Boats.—The oyſter boats are of different dimenſions. Some of the largeſt meaſure about 22 feet in keel, 26 aloft from

* Some of the aged inhabitants report, that, about 60 or 70 years ago, oyſters were in little eſtimation. In a judicial declaration, emitted A. D. 1776, by a reſidenter here, then 67 years old, he deponed, that he remembered when there were not above 3 or 4 boats employed: That they ſeldom caught above 600 in a day; and that there was little or no demand, or ſale for them, at that period.

† Haddocks formerly were plentiful, but of late years they have not appeared. Two years ago herrings were caught in great numbers near the town, in the month of Auguſt. In the pariſh records it is narrated, that in the ſame month, A. D. 1695, the herrings approached ſo near to the ſhore, that the inhabitants went out with ſieves and riddles to catch them. It is impoſſible to ſpecify the prices of the laſt mentioned kinds of fiſh, as they depend on the quantity caught, and, of conſequence, vary every day. It is certain, however, that the prices are more than tripled within theſe 20 years.

from ſtem to ſtern, 7 in extreme breadth, and 2 feet 9 or 10 inches in depth. The prime coſt of one of theſe, fully furniſhed, is 15 l. or 16 l. The boat employed in the Newcaſtle trade meaſures 33 feet in keel, 38 aloft from ſtem to ſtern, 12 feet 9 inches in breadth, and 4 feet 8 inches in depth.

Harbour.—The only harbour in the pariſh is MORISON'S HAVEN, ſo called from a family of the name of Moriſon, who were formerly proprietors of the eſtate of Preſtongrange. About 80 or 90 years ago, it was called *Newhaven*, and often ACHESON'S HAVEN, from an ancient family, the progenitors of the preſent Lord Viſcount GOSFORD in Ireland *. It is ſituated a little to the weſt of the town. It has about 10 feet of water at ſtream tides, but might be deepened ſo as to draw 12. It is reckoned one of the ſafeſt harbours in the Frith.

Trade †.—The exports at preſent are only fiſh, and the different articles of manufacture which have been already mentioned.

* GOSFORD, which was a principal ſeat of this antient family, lies 5 miles eaſt of this, in the pariſh of Aberlady. Their Scotch title was *Glencairney*. Mr ALEXANDER AITCHISON of Edinburgh, now claims being the lineal repreſentative of this family in Scotland.

† Before the Union, a conſiderable foreign trade was carried on here, eſpecially in Dutch and French goods. Beſides the home market, theſe goods, together with ſalt and tobacco, were carried to the north of England, and many of them were ſmuggled into that kingdom with great profit to the adventurers. From England they brought wool, and exported it to France. They exported likewiſe malt, ſalt, and coals. In conſequence of the duties that were impoſed after the Union, the trade, eſpecially with England, was much leſs advantageous. It was, notwithſtanding, ſtill carried on to a conſiderable extent. In the year 1719, 41 cargoes were delivered at the port of Preſton-pans,

mentioned. The imports are the ingredients uſed in the vitriol work and potteries; ſometimes Engliſh barley for the uſe of the diſtilleries in the neighbourhood. More wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and hay, are ſuppoſed to be conſumed than are raiſed in the pariſh: Leſs peaſe and beans. Conſiderable quantities of cabbage plants are raiſed. The ſeaſon of ſowing them is Lammas. Beſides the ſale in the neighbourhood, 150,000 at a medium are ſent annually to Glaſgow, and about 70,000 to Falkirk and Carron. The ſeverer the winter, the demand for them is the greater. The price is from 3 s. to 6 s. 8 d. per 1000. The principal market for garden productions is Edinburgh.

Cuſtom-Houſe.—A cuſtom-houſe is eſtabliſhed here, the juriſdiction of which extends from the *Figgat Bourn* on the weſt, to the mouth of the Tyne on the eaſt. The port is Moriſon's Haven: The creeks, the Figgat Bourn, Muſſelburgh, Port-Seton, Aberlady, and North Berwick. There

ton-pans, 19 of which were imported in ſhips belonging to the town. Of theſe cargoes 21 were wholly from Norway, 6 from Sweden, 1 from Dantzic, 2 from Dantzic and Norway, 2 from Bremen, 5 from Rotterdam, 2 from Havre de Grace and St. Martin, 1 from Oporto, and 1 from Maryland in North America. This laſt cargo conſiſted of 102 hogſheads of tobacco, 59 of which were delivered at Preſton-pans, and the remainder was carried to Leith. Some years after this period, ſeveral of the veſſels belonging to this port were loſt at ſea. This, together with the check it received at the Union, gave the trade a blow from which it never recovered. No perſon of enterpriſe or capacity, or poſſeſſed of a ſufficient ſtock, made any perſevering efforts to re-eſtabliſh it. Purchaſers not finding ſuch an aſſortment of goods as formerly, had recourſe to other ports; and about the year 1743, it entirely ceaſed. The harbour moſtly uſed by the traders was Port-Seton, about a mile to the eaſt, in the pariſh of Tranent. Before the Union, and for ſome years after it, the Dutch trade centered chiefly in Preſton-pans and Queensferry.

are 31 salt-pans in the collection, viz. 11 at Cockenzie, 4 at Preston-pans, 2 at Cuttle, 4 at West Pans, 4 to the west of Fisherrow at Pinkie Pans, and 6 at Duddingston Pans.

Markets, Mills, &c.—There is a butcher market in the parish every Wednesday and Saturday, which is supplied by butchers from Tranent and Musselburgh, no person of that occupation residing in the parish. Though nine tenths of the lands are rented, there is not one family who depend for their livelihood solely on farming.—There are only 5 brewers in the parish *. There are two mills, one of which, at the west end of Cuttle, is turned by the water of a coal-level; the other, at Morison's Haven, is turned by the sea water, collected at the flow of the tide. They are employed in grinding flint for the use of the potteries.

Stage and Tolls.—A stage coach goes to Edinburgh and returns every day in the week, except Sunday. It departs at 9 o'clock in the morning, and arrives at Edinburgh about 11. It leaves Edinburgh at 4 in the afternoon, and arrives at Preston-pans about 6. It carries 6 inside passengers; the fare is 1 s. 8 d. for each. There are 2 toll-bars, Ravenshaugh toll on the post road, and Wallyford toll, on a cross road leading to Dalkeith. These tolls, of which the last mentioned draws a mere trifle, were let at the following yearly rents:

Anno 1758	at	L. 197	*Anno* 1791	at	L. 401
—— 1790		390	—— 1792		417

Heritors, &c.—There are 20 heritors, the principal of whom are the Countess of Hyndford, proprietress of the lands of Prestongrange and Dolphinston; Mr Finlay of Drummore, Mr Syme of Northfield, Mrs Ramsay of Burnrigg,

* The brewery of malt liquors was formerly carried on to a much greater extent than it is now. In the year 1754 there were 16 brewers.

rigg, the truſtees of Schaw's hoſpital, and the truſtees of Watſon's hoſpital. The principal ſeats are Preſtongrange, Drummore, and Northfield. Preſton Houſe * is occupied by the boys on Schaw's inſtitution.

Church and School.—The great body of the people adhere to the eſtabliſhed church. About a twentieth part of the whole number are ſeceders, of whom nearly two-thirds are of the Burgher perſuaſion. There are 10 or 12 Epiſcopalians. The preſent church was built A. D. 1774. It is neatly fitted up, and may accommodate about 900 hearers. The patronage belongs to the Counteſs of Hyndford. The manſe was built A D. 1782: The ſchoolmaſter's houſe, which contains the ſchool room in part of the ground floor, A. D. 1790. The fees at the pariſh ſchool are, for Engliſh, 2s. per quarter; for Engliſh and writing, 2 s. 6 d.; for writing and arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d.; for Engliſh, writing, and arithmetic, 4 s.; for Latin, 4 s. The number of ſcholars is from 60 to 70. About the ſame number may attend three private teachers.

Poor.—The number of poor on the ſtated penſion liſt amounts to 42. Their penſions are ſettled by the kirk-ſeſſion, and are increaſed or diminiſhed as their circumſtances require. No penſioner with a family receives at preſent more than 2 s. per week, and no individual more than 1 s. 4 d. The funds ariſe from the collections at the church door; the intereſt of 250 l. Sterling of ſunk money †; the rent of

* Preston Tower, formerly the reſidence of the Hamiltons of Preſton, ſaid to have been built about the year 1500, is ruinous. At Dolphinſton there are alſo the ruins of a family ſeat.

† The ſum of 250 l above mentioned, was left by different perſons to the poor. One hundred of it was bequeathed by the late Andrew Macdowal of Bankton, one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, who bequeathed a like ſum to the poor of

of a houſe and garden at Preſton *; and perquiſites for mort-cloths. From theſe funds, a ſum of nearly 30 l. *per annum* is appropriated for the ſtated poor. The reſidue is left in the hands of the kirk-ſeſſion, to be diſtributed, as an interim ſupply, to thoſe who are ſuddenly reduced to want by miſfortune or diſeaſe. Out of it, likewiſe, are paid ſmall ſalaries to the ſeſſion-clerk, precentor, and beadle; ſchool wages for the education of a few poor ſcholars; ſums occaſionally for clothes to the poor; and the funeral expences of the penſioned poor. In addition to the 30 l. above mentioned, the heritors and feuers are aſſeſſed to the amount of what more is neceſſary for the maintenance of the ſtated poor. The heritors are aſſeſſed in proportion to their valued rents; the feuers in proportion to the value of their ſubjects. The proportion paid by the latter is to that paid by the former, as 1 to 6; correſponding to the ſuppoſed value of their different properties. Houſes belonging to heritors, for which they draw rent, (their family ſeats excepted,) are aſſeſſed after the ſame

of every pariſh in which he had property. In the bequeſt, a right of preſenting the poor perſon, or perſons, to whom the intereſt of it is to be given, is reſerved to the heir of entail.

* A. D 1753, the heritors, and ſome of the feuers, applied to Parliament, and obtained an act for impoſing a duty of two pennies Scotch on each Scotch pint of ale brewed, brought into, and vended in the pariſh; the money ariſing from which was to be applied for repayment of a ſum to be advanced for purchaſing a charity work houſe, for conveying ſoft water to the town of Preſton-pans, and for repairing Moriſon's Haven. For the firſt mentioned purpoſe a houſe was purchaſed at Preſton, with a ſmall garden; but, after a trial of a few years, the ſcheme not anſwering, it was given up. Beſides the utter averſion which many in actual want had againſt entering into the houſe, the expence was found to be greater than when the penſioners had a ſtated allowance given to them, and were permitted to ſpend it after their own way. Since that time, the rent of the houſe and garden have made a part of the poor's fund.

ſame manner as thoſe of the feuers, and are included with them in the payment of the ſixth part of the aſſeſſment. The aſſeſſing of theſe ſubjects by the real rents was conſidered as ineligible for many reaſons. When a proprietor occupies his own houſe, it is difficult to aſcertain what the rent ought to be. Tenants and landlords may not always be diſpoſed to give the neceſſary information, eſpecially when they have an intereſt in with-holding it. Even where the rent is aſcertained, there muſt be a difference in aſſeſſing old and new houſes, though the rents be equal, on account of the neceſſary reparations which the former require. This it is not eaſy to appreciate. Ten per cent. may be an equitable deduction for one houſe, but not for another. For theſe reaſons, the other mode of aſſeſſing, by the value of the ſubjects, was adopted about 8 years ago, and the proportion, with concurrence of the heritors, ſettled as it now ſtands. The value of the ſubject, or ſubjects, belonging to each individual, is eſtimated by perſons of ſkill and of character; and the aſſeſſment is levied in proportion. The medium of the whole diſburſements to the account of the poor, for the 5 years preceding 1793, is about 137 l. Sterling *per annum*. The ſum paid as the weekly maintenance of the ſtated poor, for the preſent year (1792), is 2 l. 1 s. 6 d.; which is leſs than it has been for many years paſt *.

Friendly Societies.—Some private Friendly Societies are inſtituted here. By contributing a ſmall ſum of money weekly, when in health, a ſubſcriber, when ſick, receives a comfortable

* During the years 1782 and 1783, owing to the ſcarcity which then diſtreſſed the country, the number of the poor, and the ſum neceſſary for their ſupport, was greatly increaſed. The rate for ſtated penſioners, in 1783, amounted to 3 l. 10 s. per week, beſides what was given to the occaſional poor. The number of poor continued to be greater than uſual for ſeveral years afterwards.

fortable allowance till he is again able to work: And, in the event of his death, or that of any of his family, a ſum of money is given, to help in defraying the expence of the funeral. There is an abuſe to which inſtitutions of this ſort are liable, which ought to be guarded againſt, viz. permitting ſubſcribers to become members of more ſocieties than one, which may furniſh a temptation to the indolent and avaricious, to feign indiſpoſitions difficult to be detected, and, of conſequence, occaſion a miſapplication of the fund.

Charitable Foundation.—JAMES SCHAW, proprietor of the eſtate of Preſton, bequeathed the lands and barony of Preſton, with the reſidue of ſome other funds, for maintaining and educating boys, whoſe parents are in poor circumſtances. He died A. D. 1784. The houſe of Preſton was, according to the terms of the deed, fitted up for the reception of the boys; and the eſtabliſhment commenced in February 1789. There is a maſter, houſe-keeper, and two maid ſervants. At firſt 15 boys were admitted. The number was afterwards increaſed to 24. Two have died. They are taught Engliſh, writing, and arithmetic; and, as they grow up, ſome manual employment, viz. to knit ſtockings; to mend their clothes and ſhoes, &c. Four names have a preference, in the following order: *Schaw*, *Macneil*, *Cuningham*, and *Stewart*. The age of admiſſion is from 4 to 7. They may remain in the houſe till they are 14. They muſt be free from the King's evil, and from all contagious diſtempers. The truſtees are empowered to bind them as apprentices, or otherwiſe to ſet them out to buſineſs, as they ſhall judge beſt.

Chapmen *.—On the 2d Thurſday of July, the travelling chapmen

* This word is uſed, in the Scotch ſenſe of it, for an itinerant ſeller of wares.

chapmen of the three Lothians meet annually at Preſton-pans *, and elect ſome of their number, for the purpoſe of holding courts to enforce the obſervance of bye-laws, to which they are bound at their entrance into the ſociety. They elect, on this occaſion, a provoſt or preſes, a depute, a clerk, a treaſurer, 6 bailies, and ſeveral counſellors. There is one bailie for Preſton-pans and Cockenzie; one for Haddington and North Berwick; one for Dunbar and Oldhamſtocks; one for Muſſelburgh and Dalkeith; one for Queensferry and Borrowſtounneſs; and one for Linlithgow and Bathgate. After the election they march in a body, preceded by muſic, to the croſs at Preſton, there drink a few bottles of wine, and then return. In the towns where their booths are erected at fairs, the bailie for that town gets a pawn from each chapman, who is bound to attend a meeting of the whole number, at an appointed hour in the evening, or next morning. Here the behaviour of each during the fair is inquired into. If any of the bye-laws have been tranſgreſſed, a fine is exacted and paid. If the offence has been groſs, they are expelled. The fines are depoſited in the hands of the treaſurer, and are applied

* The place of meeting, formerly, was in an open field adjoining to Preſton, on the ſecond Thurſday of October, at which time a fair was held there, called ST. JEROME'S FAIR. About the year 1732, this fair was transferred to Preſton-pans, where it was held for about 20 years, and was then given up. No information has been obtained, that can be depended on, as to the time when this ſociety was firſt inſtituted, nor how they came to hold their annual meeting at Preſton. The members reſiding in Eaſt Lothian were always the moſt numerous, which might be a reaſon for holding the meeting in this county; and Preſton, being ſituated at its weſtern extremity, is the town neareſt to the other two Lothians. In the year 1636, they acquired a right to the Croſs there, which they ſtill preſerve. So much is Preſton now decayed, that this croſs ſtands in a field. The number of pack-horſe chapmen is much fewer than it once was, and they are ſtill on the decline. About 50 years ago, there were 15 in Eaſt Lothian, all of whom had a good trade.

applied to relieve the widows or families of thoſe members of the ſociety who need ſupply, and ſometimes thoſe who have been unſucceſsful in buſineſs. They cannot proceed to an election unleſs ſome married members be preſent; but the preſes is uſually choſen from among the unmarried; it being ſuppoſed, that thoſe of this deſcription will more readily attend the fairs. When a new member is admitted, he pays ſome entry-money, which is added to the common ſtock: The ſon of a member pays leſs than a ſtranger. At preſent, the number in Eaſt Lothian who keep pack horſes does not exceed 6. Perſons living in the country are now more in the practice of purchaſing articles of merchandiſe in towns, where the aſſortments are better, and to which the acceſs is, by good roads, rendered more eaſy than it formerly was. The whole members of this ſociety at preſent are about 24 in number.

Battle of Preſton.—On the eaſt of the incloſures of Preſton was fought the battle of Preſton, A. D. 1745, in which the army of the Rebels obtained the victory over the King's forces. The action began early in the morning of the 21ſt of September, O. S. The Highlanders, in their accounts, uſually gave it the name of the *Battle of Gladſmuir;* though Gladſmuir is at leaſt 3 miles diſtant from the ſcene of action. There was, it ſeems, a tradition among them, that a battle was to be fought on the *Moor of the Gledes*, which, in the iſſue, would inſure to the *rightful Sovereign* the peaceable poſſeſſion of his throne. They made the application that was moſt favourable to their views.

Eminent Men.—This pariſh has been the reſidence of ſeveral men of eminence, viz. the Honourable JAMES ERSKINE of Grange, brother of the EARL of MAR, and Lord Juſtice Clerk

Clerk for the 3 laſt years of Queen Anne. He reſigned his ſeat on the bench in the year 1734, that he might go into Parliament to oppoſe SIR ROBERT WALPOLE. He was proprietor of the lands now belonging to Schaw's Hoſpital and Watſon's Hoſpital. HEW DALRYMPLE, LORD DRUMMORE, was a diſtinguiſhed and popular Judge. WILLIAM GRANT of Preſtongrange was Lord Advocate in 1746, and carried on the proſecutions, againſt the unfortunate perſons who had been engaged in the rebellion, with ſuch fidelity to the Crown, and, at the ſame time, with ſo much feeling and lenity for the accuſed, as gained him univerſal approbation. He was afterwards appointed one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, and one of the Lords Commiſſioners of Juſticiary. Some gentlemen, of the firſt merit in their ſeveral lines of life, were educated at the ſchool here, viz. the late Colonel CAMPBELL DALRYMPLE, youngeſt ſon of Lord Drummore, who was Governour of Guadaloupe after it was taken in the war of 1756; SIR ROBERT MURRAY KEITH, and his brother SIR BASIL KEITH; the laſt of whom, after an honourable life in the navy, died Governour of Jamaica. The firſt ſtill ſurvives, an honour to the corps diplomatique, as a member of which he has done eminent ſervices to his King and country.

Minerals.—There is plenty of coal, particularly in the eſtate of Preſton-grange; but none is wrought at preſent, nor has been for more than 30 years. The pariſh is ſupplied with this article from the pits in the pariſhes of Tranent and Invereſk. Whin-ſtone rock is alſo found here. There do not appear to be any free ſtone quarries worth the working.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—Among the advantages are to be reckoned the fiſhery, and vicinity of coal. Among the

disadvantages, the scarcity of soft water. The convenience for sea bathing is also a considerable advantage, as it renders the town much resorted to in summer. The access to the sea is immediate. At high tide it flows close to the town, and even at low tide does not recede to a great distance.

Population.—From accurate lists taken this year (1792) compared with the return to Dr Webster in 1755, the population of this parish appears to have increased above one-fifth within these 40 years. The present number of souls is 2028
The number in 1755 was - - - 1596

Increase 432

According to the parish register, which appears to be very exact, the number of persons of both sexes, born in the parish for a century past, is as follows:

TABLE OF BIRTHS.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
From 1691 to 1700 inclusive	411	416	827
—— 1701 1710	463	444	907
—— 1711 1720	438	429	867
—— 1721 1730	449	377	826
—— 1731 1740	328	326	654
—— 1741 1750	183	191	374
—— 1751 1760	253	229	482
—— 1761 1770	308	278	586
—— 1771 1780	361	372	733
—— 1781 1790	350	331	681
	3544	3393	6937
In the year 1791	32	37	69
—— —— 1792	34	27	61
	3610	3457	7067

Of

Of the laſt 10 years in the table, the greateſt number of births in one year, viz. 1789, was 82
The leaſt number in one year, viz. 1790 57

The medium of - - - - 139 is 69½
Annual average of the laſt 10 years in the table 681 is 68 1/10
Twins born within the laſt 10 years * - 20

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF PRESTON-PANS, FOR 1793.

	Houſes.	*Fam.*	*Mal.*	*Fem.*	*Tot.*
There are, in the town of Preſton-pans, - -	198	384	687	805	1492
In Cuttle - - -	52	89	126	165	291
In Preſton, including Northfield and Schaw's Hoſpital	16	23	65	49	114
In Dolphinſton and Dolphinſton Mains - -	13	13	32	28	60
In Preſtongrange, Drummore, and the reſt of the pariſh	11	11	26	45	71
Total	290	520	936	1092	2028
Perſons born out of the pariſh		-	301	453	754
——— ——— in England	-	-	9	5	14
——— ——— in Ireland	-	-	1	0	1

AGES.

	Males.	*Females.*
Under 10 years of age - -	304	289
From 10 to 20 - - -	188	160
Carried forward	492	449

Males

* Ten females were born at 5 births, 8 males at 4, and one male and one female at one.

	Males.	*Females.*
Brought over	492	449
From 20 to 60 - - -	357	527
—— 60 — 70 - - -	63	82
—— 70 — 80 - - -	21	29
—— 80 — 90 - - -	3	5
	936	1092
Total		2028

HERITORS.

Proprietors of land residing - - -	8
Ditto non-residing - - - -	12
Proprietors of houses residing - - -	55
Ditto non-residing - - - -	18

PROFESSIONS.

Clergyman - - - - -	1
Schoolmaster - - - - -	1
Private teachers - - - -	3
Surgeon - - - - -	1
Officers of the customs - - -	19
Ditto of the excise - - - -	2
Farmers above 50 l. *per annum* * - -	11
Ditto under 50 l. - - - -	18
Brewers - - - - -	5
Employed at a distillery in a neighbouring parish	9
Licensed to sell British spirits and ale † - -	32
Salters and salt agents - - - -	14
Shopkeepers - - - -	23
Gardners - - - - -	18
Barbers - - - - - -	2

Masters.

* Three of these do not reside in the parish.

† Two of these are licensed to sell foreign spirits.

	Maſters.	*Journeymen.*	*Apprent.*	*Total.*
Smiths	9	0	2	11
Maſons	5	9	2	16
Carpenters	7	8	7	22
Weavers	12	0	1	13
Shoemakers	14	4	1	19
Taylors	8	3	2	13
Watchmakers	1	0	2	3
Ropemakers	1	1	2	4
Candlemaker				1
Bakers				10
Coopers				2
Slaters				3
Midwives				2
Waſher-women				8
Carriers				4

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Domeſtic ſervants	9	73	82
Farm ſervants *	24	5	29
Day-labourers			19
Coal-drivers			3
Seamen			20
Regular fiſhermen			23
Perſons employed in the potteries, and their families			252
——————— vitriol works, with ditto			188
——————— regular fiſhery, with ditto			94
——————— ſalt-pans, with ditto			47
——————— brick and tile works, with ditto			33
			Perſons

* Some of the land is rented by perſons who do not reſide in the pariſh. Their ſervants are not taken into account. Some of it is parcelled into lots of a few acres among different tenants, who labour it themſelves,

Persons serving in the navy, in the last and former wars 28
Ditto in the army * - - - - 20

Lands, Rents, &c.

Number of acres in Scotch measure, about - 954
Valued rent in Scotch money - - L. 5264
Real ditto in Sterling †, about - - L. 2480
Number of wheel carriages - - - 6
——— carts - - - - 54
——— ploughs - - - - 23

Stock.

		Value of each.			*Total value.*		
Number of draught horses,	88	L. 12	12	0	L. 1108	16	0
——— saddle and carriage ditto, -	18	20	0	0	360	0	0
——— black cattle ‡,	58	8	0	0	464	0	0
——— cows, -	65	7	0	0	455	0	0
——— sheep, -	60	1	0	0	60	0	0
					L. 2447	16	0

ANNUAL

* Seven of these are Chelsea pensioners.

† This includes 210 l. for orchards and gardens.

‡ The above is the medium price of the cattle when bought. They are fed chiefly on turnips, and sold at about 3 l. profit.

ANNUAL PRODUCE.

Crops.	Number of acres under each,	Med. produce p. acre in bolls	Price per Boll. L.	s.	d.	Value of ſtraw per acre. L.	s.	d.	Tot. value per acre. L.	s.	d.	Total produce in bolls.	Total value. L.	s.	d.
Wheat	183.75	9	1	2	$7\frac{3}{4}$	1	1	0	11	4	$9\frac{3}{4}$	1653.3	2065	9	$3\frac{9}{10}$
Barley	103 75	7	1	0	$11\frac{3}{4}$	1	0	0	8	6	$10\frac{1}{4}$	726.1	861	11	$1\frac{7}{10}$
Oats	127.25	8	0	14	$9\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	8	7	4	0	1018.	916	4	0
Beans	7.25	9	0	15	8	1	0	0	8	1	0	65.1	58	7	3
Peaſe	42.75	6	0	15	8	1	15	0	6	9	0	256 2	275	14	9
Beans and peaſe	66.25	8	0	15	8	1	10	0	7	15	4	530.	514	10	10
Tares	2 75								6	9	0		17	14	9
Potatoes	32.50	30	0	6	0				9	0	0	975.	292	10	0
Turnips	30.50								4	10	0		137	5	0
Cabbages	12.50	ſtones.	per ſtone.						4	10	0	ſtones.	56	5	0
Sown graſs	66	230	0	0	6				5	15	0	15180	379	10	0
Paſture ditto	186.75								2	2	0		392	3	6
	862		Total value of the annual produce of 862 acres										L. 5971	5	6
Orchards, Gardenground, Cabbage plants	46 *		* The value of the annual produce of orchards, gardens, &c. has not been aſcertained.												
Plantations & Shrubberies	16														
Fallow	20		*N. B.* Six Shillings are ſtated as the medium price of potatoes per boll. The price this year (1792) was 8 s.; but the crop fell far ſhort of 30 bolls per acre. The prices of the wheat, barley, &c. are the higheſt fiars.												
Open Links	10														

Account of Salt delivered in Preston-pans Collection, from the 5th of April 1787 exclusive, to the 5th of April 1792 inclusive.

NUM-

	Salt delivered duty free for the fishery.	Salt exported, duty drawn back.	Salt delivered liable to duty.			Total delivered.	
			To be sent coastways.	For retail.			
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Gallons.	Bushels.	Gal.
From the 5th of April 1787 to the 5th of April 1788	6492		16,870	60,477	0	83,839	0
From ditto —— 1788 to ditto —— 1789	3050		17,160	56,028	5	76,238	5
From ditto —— 1789 to ditto —— 1790	4780		16,047	61,752	3	82,579	3
From ditto —— 1790 to ditto —— 1791	5230		16,870	60,235	6	82,335	6
From ditto —— 1791 to ditto —— 1792	5480	3200 *	22,294	61,387	7	92,361	7
Total for five years	25,032	3200	89,241	299,881	5	417,354	5

* This was shipped in one vessel for Stockholm.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF CAVERS.

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.—PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH.—SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE).

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS ELLIOT, *Miniſter.*

Form, Extent, and Appearance.

THE pariſh of Cavers is irregular in its form, and of conſiderable extent, being upwards of 20 miles long from W. to E. and from 7 to 2 broad. The appearance of the weſtern part of the pariſh is hilly, and that of the eaſtern flat Some of the hills are of conſiderable height; from one of them, called the *Wiſp*, may be ſeen both the eaſt and weſt ſeas.

Rivers, Soil, and Produce.—The ſoil in the lower part of the pariſh. from the church to the eaſtern boundary, at the confluence of the two rivers, *Tiviot* and *Rule*, is rich and fertile, and produces good crops of wheat, oats, barley, and peaſe. Clover, rye-graſs, and turnips, are alſo raiſed in conſiderable quantities. The land there lets from 15 s. to 30 s. per acre. The ſoil of the upper parts is perfectly adapted to the purpoſe to which it is chiefly applied, viz. the breeding of ſheep.

Account of Salt delivered in Preston-pans Collection, from the 5th of April 1787

Sheep and Wages.—The number of ſheep in the pariſh is about 12,000; they are of the long white-faced kind, which bear the ſhort clothing wool. The breed has been much meliorated of late, by means of rams got from the borders of the Cheviot hills, and the wool now ſells at from 14s. to 17s. per ſtone. A common labourer will earn 14d. per day in ſummer, and 10d. in winter. A man-ſervant employed in farm work, gets from 6l. to 7l. *per annum*, with victuals; a maid-ſervant, from 3l. 10s. to 4l. 10s. A ſhepherd, on a farm where the maſter reſides, inſtead of wages, is allowed to keep ſheep; and on a *led* farm, is allowed three ſcore and ten, and a milk cow, which may be valued at 18l.

Proprietors, Rent, &c.—There are 11 heritors in the pariſh, and, except the Duke of Buccleugh, all the principal ones reſide in it. The valued rent is 18,921l. 16s. 8d. Scotch. The real rent is about 4700l. Sterling.

Population.—The number of births, deaths, and marriages, cannot be preciſely aſcertained, as few of the Seceders enter their childrens names in the pariſh regiſter. From Dr Webſter's report, however, it is certain, that the population of the pariſh has increaſed conſiderably within theſe 40 years. The number of inhabitants at preſent (1794) is about 1300

The number of ſouls, in 1755, was - - 993

Increaſe 307

Church and Poor.—GEORGE DOUGLAS, Eſq; of Cavers is patron of the pariſh. The living conſiſts of 83l. 6s. 8d. Sterl. in money, and 2 and a half chalders of grain, half meal, half barley; together with a manſe and garden, and a glebe of 11 Engliſh acres. Beſides the pariſh church, there is a chaple of eaſe erected, for the convenience of the weſtern parts of

of this pariſh, and that of Hawick. The chaplain who performs the duty, is partly paid by the Duke of Buccleugh, and the miniſters of Cavers and Hawick, and partly from a ſubſcription by the people. The number of poor receiving weekly ſupport is about 40, for which the heritors aſſeſs themſelves, to the amount of 140 l. yearly. The weekly collections are given by the kirk-ſeſſion to the poor not belonging to the liſt of penſioners.—There is, in the village of *Denholm*, a Cameronian meeting-houſe, which is attended by ſeveral of the inhabitants and neighbourhood, who are between 2 and 3 miles diſtant from the kirk; few of them, however, join in communion with them.

Eminent Men.—Lord Heathfield *, ſo juſtly famed for his military exertions, particularly his gallant defence of Gibraltar,

* George Augustus Eliott, Lord Heathfield, the 9th ſon of Sir Gilbert Eliott, Bart. of Stobs, was born at the paternal eſtate in the year 1718. He ſhewed an early inclination for a military life, and ſoon became an officer in the 23d regiment of foot, the Royal Welſh Fuſileers. He left this regiment, and went into the corps of engineers at Woolwich, where he continued till the year 1740, when he became adjutant in the 2d troop of horſe guards. He ſerved in Germany, and was wounded at the battles of Dittengen and Fontenoy. In March 1759, he was appointed to the 15th regiment of light dragoons; and, in the Auguſt following, headed the ſecond line of horſe under the Marquis of Granby, at the battle of Minden. Being conſtituted a lieutenant general, he was, in 1762, ordered from Germany, for the purpoſe of aſſiſting, as ſecond in command, at the memorable reduction of the Havannah. He was appointed Commander in Chief in Ireland in 1774, but being diſguſted, on his arrival, he made a requeſt to be recalled, which was complied with; and, upon the death of Lord Cornwallis, he was made Governor of Gibraltar in his place, which fortreſs he bravely defended during the late ſiege, in the years 1779, 1780, 1781, and 1782. In 1783, he was granted a penſion of 2000 l. *per annum*, and created a Knight of the Bath; and, in 1787, was raiſed to the dignity of a peer of Great Britain. The honours

tar, in the years 1779, 1780, and 1781, is ſprung from the family of Stobs, now repreſented by Sir William Eliott, Bart. one of the principal heritors of this pariſh.

Antiquities.—The remains of the Roman or Saxon fortification, called *Catrail*, runs through this pariſh, from S W. to N. W. towards Selkirk and Galla Water. There are ſeveral camps to be found in the upper part of this pariſh. Some of them appear to have been Roman camps, and others Saxon *.

NUM-

honours which he had thus juſtly acquired, he did not long enjoy, for he died in the year 1790.

* At a place called *Carlenrigg*, a number of Roman urns were dug up about 5 years ago; but when theſe camps were formed, or the urns depoſited, the preſent incumbent has never been able to diſcover. At Prieſt-haugh, a great number of gold coins were found, ſuppoſed to have been depoſited by ſome of the attendants of Queen Mary, when ſhe viſited Bothwell at the Hermitage Caſtle. At a ſmall wood, near Carlenrigg Chapel, the famous JOHN ARMSTRONG was taken and ſlain.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF POLWARTH.

(COUNTY OF MERSE.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE.—SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE).

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT HOME, *Miniſter.*

Form, Situation, and Extent.

THIS pariſh is of a triangular form, and terminates in a point in the eaſt, where the four pariſhes of Polwarth, Fogo, Edrom, and Langton, all meet. It is about 3 miles long, and its utmoſt breadth about 2.

Soil and Cultivation.—The ſoil is various; the greateſt part clay, and ſome of that on a tilly bed, which is beſt adapted for graſs; other parts of it are gravelliſh, and ſome ſandy. On the north-weſt there is a conſiderable extent of muir.—The whole of the pariſh is incloſed, excepting a ſmall farm, and the muir allotted by the proprietor to the uſe of the village, for paſture and fuel. Above 1500 acres are in old graſs, and ſubdivided into incloſures of from 10 to 30 acres, all of them ſufficiently watered. Theſe are let annually by public roup, and bring very high rents, for the accommodation of thoſe farmers, who breed more ſtock than they can maintain at home.

Produce,

Produce, Proprietor, and Rents.—The principal crops in the parish are oats and barley, a few peaſe, and ſometimes a little wheat. Turnips have of late years become a more general crop, and ſucceed well. There is a conſiderable quantity of old timber, of good ſize, beſides much young planting, which are, in general, very thriving.—Great attention has been paid by the Earl of MARCHMONT (ſole proprietor of the pariſh) to the dreſſing of the hedges; many of them are allowed to be the fineſt in the country. The valued rent of the pariſh is 1624 l. Scotch. The real rent is about 1000 l. Sterling. Graſs land lets at from 10 s. to 30 s. per acre; arable land from 17 s. to 20 s.

Population.—The village of Polwarth is the moſt populous part of the pariſh. The population has, on the whole, increaſed within theſe 40 years, as will appear from the following table:

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF POLWARTH.

	Families.	*Souls.*
In the village - -	55	184
In the country - -	17	104
Total in 1793 - -	72	288
Number of ſouls in the whole pariſh, as returned to Dr Webſter in 1755 -		251
Increaſe		37

PROFESSIONS IN THE VILLAGE.

Wrights - -	3	Tailors - -	2
Maſon - -	1	Shoemakers -	5
Smith - -	1	Tanner - -	1
Weavers - -	2	Carters - -	3

Village,

Village, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—The village of Polwarth is ſituated on very wet, and even ſwampy ground, ſo that almoſt in every houſe they have a hole dug to collect the under water, which requires to be often emptied in wet weather; and yet the inhabitants are very healthy, being neither ſubject to rheumatic nor aguiſh complaints. The preſent incumbent, who has been miniſter of the pariſh 24 years, does not remember any epidemical diſtemper prevailing in the village *.—The houſes are very much ſcattered, not above 2 or 3 at moſt being ſituated cloſe to each other. It is probably owing to this circumſtance, that epidemic diſtempers do not ſpread.—In the middle of the village there are two *thorn trees*, at about 6 yards diſtance from each other, around which, it was formerly the cuſtom, for every new married pair, with their company, to dance in a ring; from hence the ſong of *Polwarth on the Green.* But this cuſtom has fallen much into diſuſe, there not having been above 2 inſtances of it theſe 20 years.

Manner of Living.—Almoſt every houſeholder, along with his houſe, rents a ſmall portion of land, called *an acre*, but which is often nearer *two.* With the produce thereof, together with what they can ſpare from their gardens, and the uſe of a conſiderable extent of muir, which they enjoy by the indulgence of the proprietor, they are enabled to keep one cow each, and moſt of them what is called *a follower.* As the rents of their ſmall poſſeſſions are very moderate, they live comfortably, and ſeldom remove, moſt of the families having been in the village for ſeveral generations back;

* In autumn 1790, an epidemic fever and ſore throat, which was very prevalent in Dunſe, and in every village round about, made its appearance in two different houſes in Polwarth at the ſame time, but ſpread no farther.

back; and, for every house that becomes empty, there are always several competitors. The 3 carters above mentioned have a larger portion of land, and keep 2 horses, with which they plough the people's acres; and bring home their turf, which is their principal fuel.

Church *.—On the front of the church there is the following inscription:—*Templum hoc Dei cultui in ecclesia de Polwarth, a fundi dominis ejusdem prius designationis, dein cognominis, aedificatum et dicatum ante annum salutis* 900, *rectorique beneficio dotatum Sed temporis cursu labefactum, a Dno.* JOHANNE *de* SANCTO CLARO† *de Herdmanston genere Dni. Patricii de Polwarth de eodem, circa annum* 1378, *reparatum, tandem vero vetustate ad ruinam vergens, sumptibus utriusque prosapiae haeredis, Dni.* PATRICII HUME, *Comitis de* MARCHMONT, *&c. summi Scotiae Chancellarii, et Dnae.* GRISSELLA KAR, *Comitissae, ejus sponsae, sepulchri sacello arcuato recens constructum, et campanarum obelisco adauctum fuit. Anno Domini* 1703. The living consists of 64 bolls of oats, 32 of barley, 24 l. 17 s. Sterling in money, with a manse, and a glebe of about 14 English acres.

Poor.—The number of poor upon the roll of the parish amounts to twelve, and they receive in all, according to their different situations, 26 l. 13 s. 4 d. which is raised by assessment, whereof one half is paid by the proprietor, the other half by the tenants. Besides the inrolled poor, there are several who receive from the kirk-session interim

* ADAM HUME, as appears from his tomb-stone, was the first minister after the Reformation The three last ministers, as well as the present incumbent, were all HUMES.

† That is, Lord JOHN SINCLAIR.

terim ſupplies; and others, particularly the widows of ſuch as have been ſervants or day-labourers to the Earl of Marchmont, are allowed, by his Lordſhip, ſome a ſtone, others half a ſtone of oat meal per week, which, with the produce of their own labour, enables them to live comfortably. It may alſo be obſerved, that there are many old and infirm men, to whom his Lordſhip, (who has always been remarkable for his humanity and attention to the poor people in this pariſh, as well as upon other parts of his eſtates), gives work, or rather wages for what they are *unable* to perform.

NUMBER IX.

UNITED PARISHES OF COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK.

(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES LITTLE, *Minister.*

Origin of the Names.

THE name of the parish of COLVEND appears to have been antiently CULWEN. In the 15th century, a *Johannes de Culwen*, the ancestor of the present family of CURWEN *of Workington*, in Cumberland, into which the name, when unconnected with the territory, hath been corrupted, married a daughter of the family of the Stuarts, Lords of Galloway; which is vouched by the principal contract of marriage, in the possession of the Curwen family.—SOUTHWICK appears to be a compound of the English word *south*, and the Saxon word *wic*, which signifies, in that language, *the winding of a river*.

Situation, Extent, and Form.—This is one of what are called *the ten parishes* *, which lie within the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, on the east side of the water of *Urr*, or *Orr*, but within the presbytery, synod, and commissariot of Dumfries. The river *Urr* separates it, on the W. from the parish of Buittle.

* The other 9 are Urr, Kirkpatrick Durham, Kirkgunzeon, New-Abbey, Kirkbean, Troquire, Terregles, Lochrutton, and Kirkpatrick Irongray.

Buittle. It extends, in length, from E. to W. along the coaſt of the Solway Frith, about 8 miles, and in breadth, from N. to S. about 4 miles, forming nearly a right angled parallelogram. The pariſh church ſtands 20 miles S. W. from Dumfries, 16 miles E. from Kirkcudbright, and 9 leagues, by water, N. of the town of Whitehaven in Cumberland.

Surface, Soil, Hills, &c.—The ſurface of this pariſh is extremely rough and irregular. No extenſive tracts of arable land, or regular fields, are here to be met with; but only ſmall ſpots and patches, and even theſe much broke and interrupted by rocks, large heaps or cairns of ſtones, and impenetrable copſes of thorn, furze, and briers or bramble. The ſurface is generally uneven, all aſcending or deſcending, but the many riſing grounds and hills are not very high. For near 2 miles towards the E. end of the pariſh along the coaſt, the country becomes more ſmooth and flat, and the fields more regular, and moſtly arable: But along the northern frontier, eſpecially towards the N. E. extremity of the pariſh, there are very mountainous grounds covered with heath, and running in a chain, into the ſkirts of the large and conſpicuous mountain *Crow-fell* *. In ſuch a country, it is next to impoſſible to aſcertain the preciſe quantity of arable ground, or even to conjecture what proportion it bears, to the many ſpots and large tracts of what may be pronounced incapable of cultivation, and utterly unimprovable. The ſoil is, for the moſt part, a light loam, warm and fertile, adapted for paſturage rather than tillage. It would be much more productive, were it not for a pernicious mixture of coarſe ſand, or rather large particles of flint and crumbled granite ſtone, which too haſtily

* Both in this, and the neighbouring counties of Cumberland and Weſtmorland, many of the large tracts of high mountainous ground are called *fells*.

haſtily abſorbs the natural moiſture, and ſoon exhauſts the ſtrength of manure and improvement. Of late years, conſiderable and pretty ſucceſsful efforts have been made, for clearing the ground of ſtones and bramble, extending the quantity of arable land, and building fences; ſo that now almoſt all that will admit of culture, or improvement, hath been actually brought under the plough.

Sea Coaſt.—The ſea coaſt here along the frith is remarkably bold and rocky, forming high and tremendous precipices, from which the tide ebbs, leaving dry a large tract of flat ſand, from whence, at low water, may be viewed ſome picturesque and magnificent ſcenes: High and pointed ſpires, at the baſes of which are paſſages through them in form of rude arches; ſpacious and regular amphitheatres, and mouths of caverns running up under ground into the land, farther than any human being hath ever adventured to explore. In the crevices of the rock, but generally where the precipice is overhanging, or moſt inacceſſible, is found the marine plant *ſamphire*, well known as a preſerve or pickle; to the dangerous expedients for gathering which, as alluded to of old by Shakeſpeare *, the people here are, at this day, no ſtrangers. Towards the eaſt, about the mouth of Southwick water, the coaſt becomes entirely flat.

Frith, Rivers, &c.—The *Solway Frith*, here, is 9 leagues over. By it there is frequent communication with the towns of Whitehaven, Partoun, Harrington, Workington, Maryport, and Allanby, in the north of England; from whence lime is imported, and conveyed into the interior parts of the

* ——— half way down
Hangs one that gathers ſamphire; dreadful trade.
LEAR.

the country up the water of Urr; which is 2 miles broad at its confluence with the frith, and is navigable from thence about 8 miles by veſſels of 80 tons burden. This navigable river, about 2 miles from its mouth, forms within land a large baſon, commonly called *Gibb's Hold*, into which large veſſels are often obliged to put, in ſtormy weather, where they are well ſheltered and ſafely moored. The water of Southwick is a ſmaller ſtream, which falls into the frith towards the eaſt end of the pariſh, and alſo affords a convenience for importation of lime; being navigable for near 2 miles by veſſels of ſmall burthen. The navigation, however, of the Solway Frith is every day becoming more difficult and hazardous, by the large ſand banks which lie in its channel, on which many ſhipwrecks happen; and which within theſe few years have riſen much higher, and extended themſelves much farther out towards its mouth, ſeeming to threaten, at no very diſtant period, to ſhut it up altogether.

Climate, and Diſeaſes.—This part of the country, enjoying a free circulation of air, a warm dry ſoil, and, like all other rocky countries, many ſprings of excellent water, might be expected to be more healthy than it is really experienced to be. Exceſſive falls of rain, brought by violent ſoutherly and ſouth-weſterly winds, blowing in from the neighbouring Atlantic, have of late years been ſeverely felt here; and have probably contributed to the frequency of ſlow fevers, fluxes, catarrhs, and conſumptions, but above all to rheumatic complaints, which univerſally prevail here. In autumn 1772, the infection of a malignant fever was communicated to this pariſh from abroad, and made great havock: It was 3 years before the infection was quite extinguiſhed. The ſudden and loud guſts of ſouth-weſterly winds, ſeveral of which have been experienced in this part of the country, uncommonly violent within

within theſe laſt 12 years, are by ſome conjectured to proceed from volcanic eruptions from the bottom of the Atlantic ocean.

State of Property.—The old valued rent of the pariſh is 3183l. Scotch. The preſent rental cannot be preciſely ſtated: Acceſs cannot be eaſily had to the knowledge of the rent of ſome farms; ſeveral grounds are in the natural poſſeſſion of the proprietors: It may probably be ſomewhat between 2500l. and 3000l. There are 22 heritors, ſome of whom have property in the pariſh to the extent of 700l. *per annum*; ſome ſo low as 7l. Ten of theſe are reſident. There are no towns or villages in the pariſh. The farms are generally ſmall: There are about 130 tenants, or perſons who may be ſaid to occupy land in the pariſh, not more than one or two of whom farm to the extent of 100l. of yearly rent; many ſo low as 5l.

Produce and Cultivation.—The kinds of grain produced here conſiſt chiefly of oats and barley; and of green crops, potatoes, turnips, and clover. The rotation of crops uſually obſerved is, firſt 2 or 3 ſucceſſive crops of oats; then the ground is ſummer fallowed, and dunged, with a green crop of potatoes or turnips; laſtly, a crop of barley, along with which are ſown ryegraſs, and red and white clover ſeeds: After one crop of hay is taken, the ground is paſtured 4 or 5 years before it is again opened up. Lime is uſed as a manure, and is imported from Cumberland, at 1 s. the Carliſle buſhel. Shells are found in great abundance on the ſhore, and have alſo been much uſed, but are experienced to be rather too ſtimulating a manure for ſo very thin and light a ſoil. The great excellency of ſhells, as a manure, is for breaking or looſening a ſtiff clay, or a heavy wet ſoil. The farmers here, and all over Galloway, at length convinced of the benefit and importance

tance of dung as a manure, are diſuſing the practice of laying their black cattle out in the open fields all winter, and are now beginning to feed them in houſes or ſhades. The ſoil, not only of this pariſh, but of almoſt the whole county, being warm and dry, in wet ſummers produces luxuriant crops of corn and graſs. The crops here have been very plentiful theſe laſt 4 or 5 years.

Exports. Prices of Wages, &c.—Unpromiſing as the appearance of the country is, this pariſh produces conſiderably more grain than is conſumed by the inhabitants. There are generally exported from it, annually, about 2500 Wincheſter buſhels of barley to Whitehaven, Lancaſter, and Liverpool; and from 3000 to 4000 ſtones of oatmeal to the ſea-port and manufacturing towns in the weſt of Scotland; beſides conſiderable quantities of potatoes to the Engliſh market. The exporting prices of barley here have been, on an average of the laſt 10 years, 2s. 8½d per Wincheſter buſhel, and of oatmeal 1s. 9¾d. per ſtone of 17 lib. 10 oz. averdupois. Potatoes are ſold at from 20s. to 30s. per ton. The prices of butcher meat here are regulated by the Dumfries market. The ſmaller articles of proviſion, ſuch as butter, fowls, eggs, &c. are rather high, as there are very frequent opportunities of conveying them to the ſea-port towns in the north of England, where they find a ready market. The wages of mechanics, and prices of labour of all kinds, have of late years riſen very high here, as in all the other farming counties in the ſouth of Scotland.

Woods and Plantations.—From the great quantities of large and full grown oak timber, ſtill in good preſervation, which are dug up in the many ſmall ſpots of peat moſs in the pariſh, it would appear that natural wood had abounded in it. Indeed,

Indeed, the vulgar tradition is, that, a few centuries ago, it was wholly a wood or foreſt. There are ſtill ſome natural wood-lands in the interior parts of the pariſh; and ſeveral ſmall plantations of barren timber have been made lately, which thrive well. Very many attempts are now making to rear fruit orchards in the pariſh; but, owing to the extreme thinneſs and lightneſs of the ſoil, and the unfavourable expoſure of this part of the country to the ſouth-weſterly winds, they do not promiſe much ſucceſs.

Fiſh, &c.—The kinds of fiſh taken here are ſalmon, white flounders, plaiſe, ſome ſoles of a very large ſize, ſkate, and, very rarely, turbot; but the great ſtaple is cod, of which large quantities, and ſome of excellent quality, are taken here, and carried to Dumfries, and other neighbouring ſmaller towns, and ſold at from 1 d. to 3 d. per pound. Of ſhell fiſh, large quantities of cockles and muſcles are found on the coaſt; alſo ſhrimps, wilks, and other ſmaller kinds, of little value. No companies are aſſociated here for the purpoſe of carrying on any fiſheries. Moſt part of the inhabitants, however, near the coaſt, are occaſionally employed in fiſhing, but all as ſingle adventurers. The ſhallowneſs of the water near the ſhore, and the roughneſs of the ſea in the cod fiſhing ſeaſon, render the uſe of boats in fiſhing dangerous, and almoſt impracticable. The ſhores produce 15 or 20 tons of kelp once in 5 or 6 years; an article reduced nearly one half in price ſince the barilla act was paſſed in 1781.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The church, which is ſituated near the S. W. corner of the pariſh, one mile N. from the frith, and at the ſame diſtance E. from the water of Urr, was built in 1771, is very plain, but large and commodious. The manſe, which ſtands about a quarter of a mile N. E. of the church, upon

upon the banks of a lake of 50 acres extent, and in form of a creſcent, was built in 1763, for what was at that time underſtood to be the legal allowance, 1000 l. Scotch, and conſequently upon a ſmall plan, and poorly executed. In 1777 it was repaired, and ſome additions made to it. The glebe conſiſts of about 6 acres. The annexed pariſh of SOUTHWICK lies to the eaſtward, and the miniſter poſſeſſes alſo a glebe there of about 8 acres. Although the walls of the old church of Southwick, which ſtands in a very romantic ſmall ſtrath, about 4 miles E. from the pariſh church, ſtill remain in many places at their full heighth, yet there is not the ſmalleſt tradition of any incumbent there, or of any circumſtance relating to it as a ſeparate charge. It appears to have been annexed to Colvend ever ſince the reformation. In February 1650, Mr David Hope, then incumbent, obtained decreet againſt the heritors of both pariſhes, modifying the ſtipend at 3 chalders of victual, two thirds meal and one-third bear, and 400 l Scotch of money, with 50 merks for communion elements. By a new decreet in 1789, the ſtipend was modified at 800 l. Scotch, with 40 l. Scotch for communion elements, and the victual continued. However long theſe pariſhes have been united, their antient boundaries are ſtill diſtinctly known. Colvend is to Southwick *, in point of rental, extent of territory, and population, nearly as three to two.

School.—There was modified, ſo lately as April 1793, 200 merks of ſchool ſalary, of which one ſchoolmaſter, who teach-

* There has been found lately a diary of the perſonal expences of King EDWARD I. of England, in one of his expeditions againſt Scotland, kept by his purſer, or ſome of the domeſtics in his ſuite, where, among other articles, is ſtated a ſmall ſum, offered, with his devotions, to *our Lady of Southwick*.

es within a mile of the church, enjoys 7 l. 2 s. and has upwards of 40 ſcholars; his income may be 18 l. *per annum*. The remainder of the modified ſalary, with 2 l. yearly of mortified money, is given to another teacher, who keeps a ſchool in the eaſtern end of the pariſh, and has uſually 30 ſcholars. His yearly income is about 13 l. The heritors have lately aſſeſſed themſelves in 60 l. for building two commodious and ſufficient ſchool-houſes, which will be executed in ſpring 1794.

Population.—Although the number of births, which is generally about 36 annually, greatly exceeds the number of deaths, which is from 18 to 24, yet the population ſeems not to have increaſed much theſe 18 years. This, and the exceſs of the number of females to that of males, may be accounted for, by many of the young men going to ſea, or to ſettle abroad. In 1772, by an epidemical malignant fever, and in 1774, by emigration, the population of this pariſh ſuffered two ſevere ſhocks, from which it hath ſcarcely yet recovered. Notwithſtanding theſe circumſtances, however, there has been an increaſe upon the whole within theſe 40 years. The number of inhabitants at preſent, (1794) is,

Males	- -	456	
Females	- -	508	
			964
The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was			898
		Increaſe	66

Occupations.—It is impoſſible to claſs the above inhabitants by their reſpective occupations. About 52 are ſailors. The farms being numerous and ſmall, many huſbandmen are occaſionally alſo maſons, wrights, carpenters, ſhoemakers, weavers,

vers, and tailors, and one man profeſſes ſometimes two, or even three of theſe different mechanic branches.

Horſes and Black Cattle.—There are in the pariſh upwards of 200 horſes, being conſiderably more than are ſufficient for all the purpoſes of agriculture; but ſo it generally happens where there are many very ſmall farms. There are kept about 650 milk cows or breeders, all the offspring of which are preſerved, and carefully reared to aged cattle. There are about 1300 riſing cattle, from 1 to 4 years old, kept the year round, at which age, when they are arrived, they are ſold lean to the graziers on the ſouth-eaſtern counties of England, at from 7 l. to 10 l. a-head. All theſe are of the true Galloway breed, moſtly wanting horns, not of the largeſt ſize, but very handſome. The breeds both of horſes and black cattle in this pariſh have been much improved within theſe 5 years.

Sheep and Goats.—There are about 2000 ſheep kept in the pariſh, and about 100 goats in the more remote and mountainous grounds. Among the ſheep there are ſome flocks of the brown-faced ſmall old Scottiſh kind, with fine ſhort wool; the greateſt number are of the black-faced kind. There are alſo a few upon the lower and more improved grounds of the larger breeds, with white faces, which have in later years been introduced from England *.

Minerals.

* About 6 or 7 years ago, a gentleman of this pariſh, a Mr Crosbie, then maſter of a veſſel in the Baltic trade, purchaſed from ſome Laplanders he ſaw at Stockholm, a Lapland ram with 4 horns, of about the ſize and weight of the common black-faced ſheep of this country; but his great excellence was his fleece, which was very abundant, and remarkably fine and ſilky. He brought him home to this country, with which he ſeemed to

Minerals *.—The rocks and ſtones, which abound ſo much in this pariſh, are all of hard granite, many of them interſperſed with veins of flint or ſpar. They furniſh excellent materials for walls and fences. There is likewiſe a quarry of a free or ſofter ſpecies of granite, on one part of the ſhore, which is worked for mill-ſtones, and from whence all the mills in the ſouth-weſt of Scotland are furniſhed. Many of them are alſo carried into the interior parts of the country, and ſome are ſent to Ireland. From 20 to 15 are ſold annually at about 3 l. each.

Fuel.—There are very many ſmall ſpots of peat moſs in the pariſh, which are now much exhauſted. The preparation of this kind of fuel, upon which the ſole dependence of the generality of the inhabitants has hitherto been, is here attended with vaſt expence of time and labour, and after all they are but poorly ſupplied. However humane the intention of the legiſlature was, in the late commutation of the coal duty, it has been in a great meaſure fruſtrated, as to

to agree very well. He was obſerved to delight much in cropping the heather, and to prefer it to every other plant the climate produced. He lived 18 months in the country, and experienced all our variety of ſeaſon. He propagated with a ewe of this country; but both he and his offſpring were killed by ſome other animal, by which means the breed was unfortunately loſt.

* About 25 years ago, a copper mine was opened in this pariſh, near the rocky ſhore. A conſiderable quantity of ore was dug up, and ſent in caſks to a ſmelting furnace at ſome diſtance. It was found to be rich, and actually produced as much copper as cleared all charges upon it; but the work was relinquiſhed. The eſtate, upon which it was found, was then the paternal eſtate of the late Counteſs of SUTHERLAND and Lady GLENORCHY, but is now the property of Mr OSWALD of Auchencruive.

to this part of the country, by the ſelfiſhneſs of the proprietors or tackſmen of the coal mines along the Cumberland coaſt, who immediately availed themſelves of the opportunity it gave them to advance the price of coals at the pit, ſo far as to keep them ſtill above the reach of the ſmaller farmers, and inferior claſſes.

Rare Natural Productions.—Beſides the wild quadrupeds, common to all the ſouth of Scotland, there have been found here ſome few individuals of a ſpecies of the weaſel, more rare in this country. It reſembles the pole-cat, or common foumart, from which it is diſtinguiſhed by the largeneſs of its ſize, the ſuperior quality of its fur, and by being free of that foetid ſmell which renders the other ſo diſagreeable and diſguſting. It is vulgarly called the *martin*, and is the *muſtela martis* of natural hiſtorians.—There are found upon the ſhore here ſome of thoſe wonderful marine productions, which ſeem to be the links that connect the animal and vegetable ſyſtems, viz. the POLYPUS, called alſo the Sea Anemone. It does not poſſeſs a loco-motive faculty, and its organs are too imperfect to entitle it to be ranked with animals; but appears to have ſomewhat of more *ſenſation* than can be aſcribed to a merely vegetable ſubſtance, like ſome of which, too, it is reproduced from any part cut off. Such of them as are found here are of a ſmaller ſize, and their colours are not ſo vivid, as thoſe in warmer climates *.—Some of

* A neighbouring clergyman, however, (the Rev. Mr MUIRHEAD of Urr), ſeems to be of a different opinion reſpecting this wonderful ſemi-animal. In a letter to a friend in town he gives the following deſcription of it: "About 5 years ago I "diſcovered, in the pariſh of Colvend, the *Animal Flower*, in as "great perfection and variety as it is in Jamaica. The lively "colours, and the various and elegant forms of the Polypus "on

of the ſprings that ooze through the rocks are of a *petrifying* quality, particularly in the higher and more rugged hills in Southwick, near Crow-fell, where ſome chryſtallizations are found.

Antiquities *.—At Fairgarth, near the center of the pariſh, there is a well formed of a very copious ſpring of excellent water, arched over, which goes by the name of *St. Lawrence's Well*, hard by which are the veſtiges of a chapel, with burying

" on this coaſt, are truly equal to any thing recited by natural " hiſtorians, reſpecting the ſea flowers of any other country. " To ſee a flower of purple, of green, blue, yellow, &c. ſtriving " to catch a worm, is really amuſing."

* About the year 1780, there was found upon the eſtate of Southwick, belonging to Sir JAMES RIDDELL, Bart. in the middle of a large granite ſtone, when blaſted with gun powder, in a ſocket exactly fitted to it, a piece of the ſame kind of ſubſtance, ſmooth and poliſhed, in form ſomewhat reſembling a rude hatchet. It was about 9 inches long, 6 broad at the one end, and 3 at the other end, about the thickneſs of the palm of the hand; one of the angles at the broad end a little more acute than the other, the corners a little rounded, and ſharp round the edges. The virtuoſi, to whoſe inſpection it was ſubmitted, did not heſitate immediately to pronounce it to be a hatchet, which had been uſed by the Druids in performing ſacrifice, which conjecture they imagined warranted by the veſtige of a Druidical temple very near the place where it was found: But this depends upon an hypotheſis which admits rather of ſome doubt. When the ſize, the firmneſs, and ſolidity of the maſs in which it was found, are conſidered, and the difficulty of aſſigning any period ſince the creation as the commencement of the formation of ſuch a maſs—indeed our entire ignorance of the nature and progreſs of ſuch a proceſs, or the time it would require,—it muſt be owned it becomes rather problematical, whether this hatchet is the work of art, and ever exiſted in a ſtate ſeparate from the ſtone out of which it was taken; or if the phenomenon is only a *luſus naturae*.

burying ground * around it, now occupied as a barn yard.—At the ſouth-weſt corner of the pariſh, on a very high promontory, or head of land, formed by the junction of the Water of Urr with the Solway Frith, there are the veſtiges of a work of ſtrength, ſuppoſed to be Daniſh; the foſsè is ſtill very apparent. It bears the name of the *Caſtle-hill of Barclay*. Upon the bank of the ſame river, on the eaſt ſide, about two miles farther up, upon the narrow top of a ſmall, but high, ſteep, and rocky hill or mount, have lately been diſcovered the veſtiges of another work of ſtrength, which, from the ſcanty remains of its materials that are to be found, antiquarians ſuppoſe to have been a vitrified fort. The place is called the *Moat of the Mark*, or *Merkland of Barclay* †.

Manners.—The Iſle of Man, which lies 24 leagues diſtant to the S. W. the higher grounds of which are in ſight here, is well known, before the lordſhip of it was purchaſed by government in 1765, to have been the great channel of a contraband trade with France, to the ſecret operation of which, the nature of this country as above deſcribed, but then in a ſtill more unpoliſhed ſtate, was moſt favourable. Having the advantage of many ſecret caverns, impervious thickets, devious paths, and unfrequented tracts, which afforded innumerable and ſecure hiding places, it is not to be wondered at, if the inhabitants were generally and deeply engaged in it, and conſequently addicted to idleneſs, and to that ſpecies of intemperance to which the ſtaple of that trade

* Some people were alive lately, who remembered to have ſeen ſome of the tomb-ſtones and inſcriptions, but none can now be found.

† *Vide* ARCHÆOLOGIA, Vol. X.

trade immediately miniſtred. But the abolition of that trade has had a happy effect upon the improvement of the country, and the manners of the people in this corner; and the traces of theſe more licentious times, which were a proverbial reproach to this pariſh, are now almoſt wholly obliterated. The preſent generation are trained up in habits of ſobriety and induſtry, for which, and for their attention to their farms and reſpective occupations, they are perhaps now no leſs remarkable, than they were in thoſe more diſſolute times, for their diſſipation.

Diſadvantages.—The moſt ſtriking which occur apply to the whole county of Galloway, as well as to this pariſh, namely, the diſadvantages under which the farmers and breeders of black cattle, the great ſtaple of this part of the country, labour in marketing them.—A number of young fellows, of the very loweſt claſs, who diſlike, or affect to be above labour, turn what are called *jobbers*, ſcour the country, and infeſt the cattle markets, and, by picking up the younger cattle, intercept a profit between the breeder and grazier, to the prejudice of one, or perhaps both of them. This is an evil which it is impracticable to reſtrain, unleſs by ſomething like the following method: That the farmers in general, for their mutual advantage, ſhould enter into a concert, whereby it ſhall be underſtood, to be laid down as a rule, that thoſe who rear the cattle ſhall ſell them only to thoſe, who, they know, can graze them upon their own farms or poſſeſſions; and that thoſe again ſhall buy only from thoſe, whom they know to have reared them, or who have kept them at leaſt for months.—Another evil, of which the conſequences have been, and preſently are, ſeverely felt by many, is the frequent and weighty failures of the greater drovers, that is, thoſe who yearly buy the aged cattle through the country, collect

collect them into large droves, and carry them up to the markets in the ſouth-eaſt counties of England. They generally buy upon credit; payments are not expected, until, in the courſe of 4 or 5 months, they are enabled to make them from their returns in the Engliſh markets, and conſequently muſt, in a great meaſure, depend upon their ſucceſs there, which they themſelves have the excluſive privilege of reporting to the farmer their creditor. Of theſe adventurers, who theſe many years have obtained the credit and confidence of the country, the greater number have at one time or other failed, and ſome repeatedly. By ſuch failures large ſums have been loſt, honeſt and induſtrious farmers much hurt and reduced, and whole families ruined. It were to be wiſhed that the Engliſh graziers, or cattle merchants, were to be ſeen buying their cattle in our own markets, rather than that our farmers ſhould be obliged to run ſuch riſks, in truſting their property to ſo great extent, in the hands of people, ſo many of whom they have experienced to be unworthy of their confidence, in order to get it diſpoſed of in the remoteſt parts of the iſland.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF BUITTLE.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.—PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT).

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE MAXWELL *of Glenarm, Miniſter of that Pariſh.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

VARIOUS opinions are entertained as to the derivation of the name. Some have thought that *Boot-hill*, or *Butt-hill*, was the original name of that territory which now compoſes the pariſh of Buittle, on account of the frequent muſters of cavalry, or archers, that muſt have taken place in the vicinity of the caſtle after-mentioned. With as much probability, however, it may be ſuggeſted, that the word *Buittle* is but a contraction of Bowet-hill or Bowet-hall, an appellation occaſioned by the beacons in the neighbourhood of the caſtle alluded to; or the great light which it diſplayed on feſtive or ſolemn occaſions. Men of the name of *Bootle*, too, are frequent in England, and to be found in Scotland.—Buittle is one of thoſe pariſhes in the ſtewartry of Galloway, that border upon the Solway Frith, and have the advantages of navigation From the march of Croſsmichael, upon the north, Buittle extends ſouthward to the ſea. This is the length of the pariſh, and includes about 8 miles. On the whole

whole of the eaſt ſide it is bounded by the river and pariſh of Urr. From thence to Kelton and Rerrick, which are conterminous to Buittle, on the weſt and ſouth-weſt, its average breadth may be 3 miles.

Soil, Surface, Hills, &c.—The ſoil of Buittle is like moſt of the land in lower Galloway (eſpecially near the mouth of the Urr), kindly and fertile, even beyond its appearance. The ſurface of Buittle is unequal, and juſtifies Buchanan's remark upon Galloway in general:—"Nuſquam fere in "montes attollitur, ſed collibus tantum frequentibus intu-"meſcit." The hills, however, being moſtly green and without heath, have lately drawn the attention of the induſtrious; nor have their pains been ill repaid, as the ſoil is often found deeper on the heights than on the lower ground. It is here to be obſerved alſo, that there are few hills in this part of Galloway, where cultivation is at all practicable, that do not bear diſtinct marks of the plough. The depths of the furrows, too, plainly declare, that this tillage has not been caſual, or merely experimental, but frequent and ſucceſſive. This ſhould ſet both the antient population and induſtry of this part of Scotland in a more favourable light, than that in which they are uſually beheld. It alſo affords probability to a tradition repeated by the country people to this day, "That at a time when Scotland was under a pa-"pal interdict, or ſentence of curſing from the Pope, it was "found that his Holineſs had forgot to curſe the hills, "though he had commanded the land, uſually arable, to "yield no increaſe; and that while this ſentence remained, "the people were neceſſitated to ſeek tillage ground, in "places unuſual and improbable*." The graſs through the

* That King Robert Bruce, and what part of Scotland ſub-

the greater part of Buittle is excellent, being moſtly what is called the *Sheep's feſcue graſs*. Excluſive of other good properties, it may be adverted to, that this plant defies extirpation by either bad farming or bad ſtocking: For often when land is ſo much plowed that it will bear no more corn, and even the roots of the larger graſſes are deſtroyed, we ſee the field covered with the feſcue in a very ſhort time. Again, by overſtocking a paſture, the ſeed ſtalks of moſt graſſes are eaten up, and the very roots preyed upon. But the prodigious crop of ſmall ſeeds, light and eaſily transferred by the winds, afforded by the feſcue, hinders its deſtruction in the former ſenſe; and the ſmallneſs of its fibrous roots in the latter.

Plants, &c.—The natural productions of Buittle differ little from thoſe of the lower parts of Galloway in general, and which, in all probability, will be particularly mentioned in the account of every pariſh belonging to that diſtrict. The plants and flowers in Buittle are no ways remarkable. Even by gentlemen in affluent circumſtances, that cultivation of the earth, which produces an immediate return, and connects with general utility, is preferred to attempts of unprofitable curioſity, as to rearing exotic plants, or even thoſe of this climate that are of a precarious growth. This pariſh, indeed, abounds ſo much with excellent natural ſhelter, that it is believed few plants or trees would fail here, that ſucceed well in any other part of Scotland, if not of Britain. With great ſafety one might take any bet, that, *communibus diebus*, the

ſubmitted to him, were under the Pope's curſe for a good many years, and that Galloway acknowledged his authority pretty early, every one knows; but if the above tradition, as ſtanding connected with this fact, is true, we may place it among the few benefits that ſuperſtition has conferred on mankind.

the thermometer ſtands higher during the year in Buittle than at London. For ſome ages, this pariſh was, in conſequence of the above natural advantages, diſtinguiſhed as abounding with orchards. Of late, however, theſe have fallen much into decay. It has indeed been complained of, that for many years paſt the growth of fruit-timber, and of trees in general, has been leſs favoured by the temperature of the air than formerly; and ſome gloomy philoſophers have dreaded, that Scotland might experience the calamities of Iceland, or Daniſh Greenland. Even under leſs dreary impreſſions, candour muſt admit, that, for theſe 15 or 20 years, new plantations have not come on ſo vigorouſly as could have been expected; and that the fruits, ſuch as apples, pears, &c. have not ripened to the degree of perfection, that even middle aged people affirm to have been formerly common.

Animal Flowers.—Till of late, perhaps, it has not been much adverted to, that the animal flower, or water polypus, is even common alongſt the ſhores of Buittle, Colvend, and very likely around the whole coaſt of the Stewartry of Galloway. The form of theſe polypuſes is elegant, and pleaſantly diverſified. Some are found reſembling the ſun-flower, ſome the hundred leaved roſe, but the greater number bear the likeneſs of the poppy. The colours differ as much as the form. Sometimes the animal flower is of a deep purple, frequently of a roſe colour, but moſtly of a light red or fleſhy hue. The moſt beautiful of them, that could be picked up, have often been carried from the ſhore of Colvend, 12 or 15 miles up into the country, where they have lived, fed on worms, and even bred for ſeveral weeks, and might have exiſted much longer, if they could have been ſupplied with ſea-water. In a word, it ſeems probable, that an induſtrious

duſtrious naturaliſt might diſcover, on this coaſt, ſome of thoſe ſingular animals, not much inferior to thoſe produced in the Antilles, and other tropical countries.

Fiſh.—As the ſouth end of Buittle is waſhed by the Solway Frith, a good deal of fiſh is taken, and much more might be had. As other ſubſiſtence is plenty, however, and as labourers and their families are maintained by their employers, neither choice nor neceſſity leads any one to follow the fiſhing buſineſs, much farther than as an amuſement. Nevertheleſs, it is believed by many judicious people, that if a few fiſhermen from the Highlands ſhould ſettle about the mouth of the Urr, they would find profitable employment, and be of ſervice to the country around. The fiſh uſually taken at preſent are, ſalmon, cod, flounders, &c. Cockles, muſcles, and ſeveral other kinds of ſhell fiſh are alſo to be had in tolerable plenty.

Quadrupeds.—The quadrupeds are entirely of the common ſort, and the black cattle (which are almoſt all polled) are of a good ſhape. During the time that a farmer ſociety ſubſiſted at Dumfries, which invited the tenantry to ſhew their beſt breeding cattle, and diſtributed premiums, the mould of cattle was viſibly improved. Since that ſociety was dropt, farmers have become, it is thought, more careleſs, both in Buittle, and in many pariſhes around. The breed of horſes is much improved, ſo far as concerns the purpoſes of agriculture; but the old hardy Galloway ſpecies is moſtly extinct. Sheep are kept in ſmall numbers, being thought prejudicial to the paſtures where black cattle are fed; nor is the growth of wool attended to, or conſidered as an object of profit, unleſs on the ſmall ſcale of domeſtic oeconomy.

Birds.

Birds.—To mention the feathered race might here ſeem to be a matter of levity; but when it is conſidered that they, perhaps, of all living creatures, have the moſt delicate ſenſations, as to climate and the ſtate of the air; that nature has enabled, and even inſtructed them, to chooſe or to change their reſidence accordingly; and that their appearance or abſence may afford no contemptible eſtimate of the increaſing warmth or cold of any country, (things much connected with the ſtate of agriculture), one may venture to hazard ridicule on this ſubject. Perhaps inattention to ſubjects not viſibly important, and ignorance of natural hiſtory, might hinder our anceſtors from remarking upon birds any ways ſingular. If that has not been the caſe, this country has lately been frequented by ſeveral that uſed ſeldom to appear in Scotland. Since ſome groves of pines came to be of a reſpectable growth, the croſs-bill has been frequently ſeen, and it is believed breeds in the country. The bull-finch is common, and pheaſants have been obſerved, which, in all probability, muſt have come from England. Quails, hardly known a few years ago, are now in abundance. In hard winters, too, the Bohemian chatterer, and even ſome Arctic birds have viſited us. The common moor and black game have diſappeared from this pariſh, ſince agriculture became extenſive, and the heath, broom, furze, &c. were deſtroyed. Other game would be very plenty, but the game laws have never been rigorouſly executed in this part of the country, unleſs when people break fences, diſturb cattle, and do the farmers wanton miſchief in the courſe of their amuſement.

Minerals.—As to minerals or foſſils, little can be here mentioned, ſerving either to gratify curioſity, or prompt induſtry. Rock cryſtals, but of no great brilliancy, are often found. Talcs and ſpars of ſeveral kinds are pretty frequent-

ly

ly met with; and iron ore appears to be in ſuch abundance in Buittle, as well as the neighbouring pariſhes, that ſome have thought an iron manufacture might be copiouſly ſupplied *. Certain burrows in the earth, frequently talked of in

* Though the writer of this account propoſed to be concise on the ſubject of antiquities, he cannot help mentioning here certain ſubterraneous paſſages or galleries, diſcovered in this neighbourhood. Theſe are dug through a firm kind of gravel, perhaps iron ore; nor is the roof ſupported by wood, or arched with ſtone. Into one of theſe lurid grottos, the preſent Mr MAXWELL of Terraughty, when a boy, deſcended, and travelled farther than perhaps prudence could chooſe to accompany curioſity. The upper part of this paſſage or cave he deſcribes as above; "the bottom (ſays he) was like an *ill ſwept* "*kirk*, and here and there were heads of ſpears, and human "bones." If thoſe excavations were ought elſe than iron mines, they muſt have been places of ſepulture. Tacitus, however, plainly ſays of the Germans, *Funerum nulla ambitio, ſepulchrum ceſpes erigit* †. And though Cæſar calls the funeral obſequies of the Gauls, *Sumptuoſa et magnifica pro cultu*, he ſays nothing of their carrying the bones of the dead into caverns. It would be mere pedantry to ſhew, that a work, ſuch as that above deſcribed, has as little to do with the religion of the Gauls and Germans, as with their funeral rites, and the concluſion muſt be, that ſuch works are perfectly Scottiſh. Any inquiſitive gentleman, wiſhing to know farther on this ſubject, might apply to Mr Maxwell of Terraughty, whoſe affability and good ſenſe need no commendation. Or if any antiquary chooſes to repeat Mr Maxwell's experiment, the inhabitants of Auchenreoch, near Spottis-hall, will yet point out the entrance. Pity but the celebrated Mr M'PHERSON would explore this *deſcenſus Averni*; the world might be bleſſed with an appendix to Fingal, and with recent accounts from the ſpirits of Loda and of Dr Samuel Johnſton. In ſeveral parts of this country, too, there are oblong ſquares, made with banks of ſtone. In the centre there is a hearth; and, in digging up the banks forming the ſquare, collars, chains, hooks, and forks have been found. Such places have, by ſome ingenious gentlemen, been ſuppoſed to be accommodations for burning dead bodies; and certain niches in the ſurrounding banks, underſtood to be receptacles for the bones.

† TAC. *de Moribus Germ. cap.* XXVII.

in different parts of the country, would lead one to think that iron had been wrought in this part of the world, at a very early period. There is ſtill marl in almoſt every moſs; but, as lime can be had by water carriage, marl is now but little valued.

Farms, Rents, and Proprietors.—The generality of farms in Buittle are of moderate extent. Some there are of 300 acres or more; but theſe, (with an exception or two), conſiſt of broken or hilly ground.—There may be about half a dozen farmers in the pariſh, who pay 200 l. a year of rent, or

bones ‡. Nevertheleſs, as the chains, collars, &c. ſeem as fit for holding living bodies as dead ones, there is room to believe thoſe oblong ſquares were places of ſacrifice, or of puniſhment, which are moſtly found ſynonimous terms, when human ſacrifice is in the queſtion. The Scotch are aſſuredly either of German or Gaelic extraction, perhaps a mixture of both. As to the funerals of theſe nations, Tacitus expreſsly ſays, the Germans uſed the *rogus* in the common manner; and Caeſar ſays, the Gauls burnt their dead, but ſtates no peculiarities; on the contrary, he rather tranſcribes Homer on the ſubject. Regarding the religion of theſe nations, however, Tacitus ſays, the Germans did offer human ſacrifices to Mercury; and Caeſar, (lib. vi. cap. 16.) ſays, The Gauls offered human ſacrifices, ſome of a private, ſome of a public nature. He adds, that they ſacrificed in this laſt manner criminals, as moſt acceptable to the Gods; but innocent people, if criminals could not be found.—One of the oblong courts or ſquares is not far from the cavern already mentioned. This leads one to compare what Mr Bruce ſays about the inhabitants at the ſource of the Nile, their carrying part of their ſacrifices into caves, with the aſſertion of Tacitus, that the Germans had the Egyptian religion, or at leaſt worſhipped *Iſis*. Perhaps this is the only faint argument, that could connect the caves already mentioned, with the religion of the Gauls or Germans.

‡ *See M.* COPLAND *of Kings-Grange's very ingenious treatiſe on this ſubject, preſented to the Manchester Society of Antiquaries.*

or upwards; hardly ſo many paying from 10 l. to 20 l. The moſt common rent is from 70 l. to 120 l. *per annum*. Indeed, in Buittle, property of the landed ſort is not ill divided, either among the landholders or the tenantry. There are 15 heritors in the pariſh;—the largeſt eſtate is about 1000 l. *per annum*, and there is only one below 70 l.

Fuel, Cultivation, and Produce.—From a port in the Urr, at Barlochan, or Garden Creek, the greater part of the pariſh is ſupplied with lime. That port lies on the eaſt ſide of the pariſh, and is centrical. At Munſhes, about a mile farther up the river, ſome is alſo landed. Lately (and moſt timeouſly) coal has been imported at a reaſonable rate, namely, at 10 d. the Carliſle buſhel. While this country retains its ſober ſenſes and habits, it cannot readily forget the perſons by whoſe interpoſition and efforts this deſirable event has been brought about.—Tillage and paſturage are almoſt equally objects to the farmer here. The greateſt tillage permitted is one third of the arable, which is certainly more than is profitable. After liming, three white crops are taken, two of oats, and a third of barley. If, after the third white crop, the farmer dungs and has a green crop, a fourth white crop is permitted, when the ground is always ſown out with red clover and rye-graſs, the only foreign graſſes propagated. White clover, and the perennial red, are ſo common in the fields, and riſe naturally in ſuch plenty, that the bought ſeeds of theſe plants are ſeldom uſed. Not much wheat is ſown. The ſoil, though kindly, is light; but that is not the only reaſon.—The ſtraw of wheat is not uſed as fodder in this part of the country, though it is in England; and this, to a farmer in theſe parts, is a great draw-back on a crop, as moſt of the farms can maintain more cattle in ſummer, than can be provided with food in winter: For the ſame reaſon, fallowing

lowing is little known, graſs being valuable, and the fields abundantly clean, ſince the corns were dreſſed with *fans* *, a practice equally profitable and univerſal. From the inequality of the ſurface of the ground, the watering of land, by the numerous wells and rivulets, is eaſy; but of late the practice is not much followed, where other manures can eaſily be had, as it is believed to render the ſoil thin and gravelly, and to exhauſt it ſo, that hardly any other improvement is an effectual reſtorative.—Of *commons* we have not one foot. Ring fences (ſtone dykes) around every farm, have been erected long ago, and even ſub-diviſions; but the latter are quite too large, eſpecially for the turnip huſbandry. Indeed of late, potatoes, which are exported in great quantities to England, to Glaſgow, &c. have ſuperſeded almoſt every other fallow or green crop. The price is from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. per cwt. as the ſeaſon is plenteous.—The implements of agriculture are in every reſpect the ſame with thoſe in the north of England; and as the intercourſe with White-

* To the credit of this country, this ſimple and moſt uſeful machine was, a few years ago, brought to perfection, by two natives of this neighbourhood. Without this aid, farmers might ſtill have been obliged to place their barns in the moſt aukward and inconvenient ſituation, from the view of obtaining wind for winnowing. Even then the corn often rotted in the barn; and fields remained unſown, becauſe the air was calm, or the wind unſuitable, or accompanied with rain or ſnow. Servants are now ſet to winnow the corns, in the fore part of the winter night, when they were uſually ſtraggling, or unprofitably employed. Their health is no longer expoſed in this part of their duty; and, in a word, the date of the corn trade, in this country, ſeems to coincide with the period when the fan was introduced. It is with no bad intention, that we mention the names of the inventors, to whom the world has been more indebted than to thouſands of renowned empyrics in politics, law, divinity, phyſic, &c. The ſaid ingenious mechanics were Mr Muir, joiner in Dumfries, and Mr Kinghorn, miller of the town's mills, both dead ſeveral years ago.

Whitehaven, and the other towns on the oppoſite ſide of the Solway Frith, is daily, it is believed the utenſils of huſbandry are juſt as well made here as any where elſe, and better accommodated to the ſtate and ſituation of the ground, than could be done by a ſtranger tradeſman. No oxen are uſed for draught, probably owing to the temptation people have of ſelling thoſe home-bred horſes, that are good, to the Engliſh and to jockeys in general. The breeding of black cattle, too, is followed by almoſt every farmer, as far as the nature of things will permit.

Prices of Labour, Improvements, &c.—The wages of ſervants are, for *lot-men*, as they are called, or cottagers, about 14 l. *per annum*; but the articles of maintenance furniſhed are, perhaps, eſtimated in Galloway, 2 l. or 3 l. a year lower than in Lothian, and ſome other counties of Scotland.—Labourers, by the day, get from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d.—Farm houſes are generally very good, as well as offices. In a word, the continual repair of drovers, cattle-dealers, and even labourers, to England, and the ſpirit of improvement that has prevailed in this country for theſe 20 years paſt, has made the farming of theſe parts nearly equal to what it is in the ſouthern part of the iſland, in all ordinary matters, and due regard being had to the means of the inhabitants of the different countries. As a teſt of the happy conſequences, 4 or 5 of the beſt farms in Buittle, which, about the year 1747, were rented at 200 l. Scotch, or 400 merks each, now pay, (or would pay if out of leaſe), 230 l. a piece; whilſt the tenants would live incomparably better than their predeceſſors. One prejudice ſeems much to obſtruct the ſucceſs of the farmer in this part of the world—it is that of ſowing too late. The fields, where the corns ſhaken by violent winds, if early ploughed, have been known to yield a reſpectable crop in the

the following ſeaſon, in ſpite of the rigours of winter; and though conſtant experience declares, that the oats, ſown in the beginning of February, afford the moſt profitable return, ſtill the ſowing of that grain is delayed till the middle of March; nor is the ſeed barley committed to the ground ſooner than the middle or the latter end of April. The harveſt, as might be expected, correſponds with the ſeed time. Seldom does it begin before the middle of September, and it is often later, as the ſoil and expoſure of the ground, or as the nature of the ſeaſon, may decide.

Leaſes.—In farming, as in moſt other concerns, a man's exertions depend very much on the prudence of thoſe principles, in which his endeavours originate. In Galloway, and perhaps elſewhere, one maxim ſeems for ages to have fettered the hands of induſtry. The farmer reaſoned thus with himſelf:—'My forefathers and I have had this preſent poſ-'ſeſſion, in which I am now ſettled, by ſucceſſive leaſes of 7 'years, or leſs, for ages. The rent has been ſtill the ſame; 'but to keep it from riſing, we have not only omitted every 'improvement, but, in many inſtances, we have, to our own 'detriment, been obliged to labour for the depreciation of 'the ſubject. This is the conſumate prudence of the farmer; 'and departing from this maxim, every farmer may expect 'to find his ruin, either in the avarice of his laird, or in the 'envy of his neighbour; as the latter will offer, and the for-'mer chearfully receive, whatever any parcel of ground can 'afford, let it be improved at whoſe coſt, or by whoſe in-'duſtry, it may.' Two methods of refuting this dangerous maxim ſeem to have been adopted in England. The one is, by leaſing the ground from year to year, and ſtipulating, annually, what improvement is to be made, and whether at the coaſt of the landlord or tenant. The mode of farming is thus

thus too fixed. The other is, that of granting leaſes for lives, or for a great number of years, upon fines, &c. ſo that the intereſt of the tenant in his poſſeſſion becomes greater than that of the proprietor. In this part of the world, a medium has been ſought. Few leaſes are granted for leſs than 19 years; and it is now, indeed, not ſo much the queſtion with a tenant, whether his induſtry will redound ultimately to the benefit of his landlord, or of a ſucceeding tenant, as whether it will pay him, (the preſent poſſeſſor) in conformity to his ſkill and outlay.—'If the farm (now reaſons the latter) is worth 10 l. a year more, at the end of my leaſe, I may juſt as well give that for it, as for any other of equal value.' After all, it is probable that longer leaſes than thoſe of 19 years would be favourable to permanent improvements, ſuch as hedges, &c. and it muſt be owned, that as the leaſe draws near a cloſe, the tenant is often found comporting himſelf, as if under a conviction that he inhabited hoſtile ground. To ſay the truth, however, that narrowneſs of mind, or *ariſtocratical pride*, which adjuſted every matter of leaſe, to the viſible purpoſe of keeping tenants in abject dependance upon their landlords, has of late been put very much to the bluſh. Through all Galloway, as well as in Buittle pariſh, a prodigious alteration took place in landed property, through the fatal American war, and the ſcarce leſs deplorable concern of the Douglas and Heron Bank. Moſt of the eſtates brought to ſale in this county, were purchaſed by natives of it—men acquainted with the world, and in affluent circumſtances. Theſe knew better things than to ruin themſelves with *Baillie-work* *, to put their importance on the number of kain hens paid them by ragged cottagers; or to recommend their own affability, by encou-

* What are called *Boon-days* in England.

encouraging idleneſs and intoxication, in ale-houſe conventions. The permanent part of the improvements, neceſſary on their eſtates, they took upon themſelves;—their tenants were prudently choſen; the leaſes they gave were of conſiderable length; and, to give tenants more confidence and ſpirit, it is ſtipulated with ſeveral, that they ſhall be allowed to reſign, on a year's warning, if times are diſtreſſing, provided they have not committed waſte, or done conſiderable detriment upon their reſpective farms.

Population.—Before ſaying more of other concerns, it may be fit to mention the population of the pariſh, and ſome matters connected with it.—To ſave words, and communicate information as readily as poſſible, recourſe is had to figures.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF BUITTLE, FOR 1793.

Population in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter,	899
Ditto in 1793, - - - -	855
Decreaſe	44

RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS.	*Families.*	*Individuals.*
Members of the eſtabliſhed church	133	678
Cameronians - - -	16	67
Seceders - - - -	9	34
Roman Catholics - - -	19	75
Epiſcopals - - - -	0	1
Total	177	855
SEXES.		
Males - - - -		392
Females - - - -		463
Total		855

AVE-

AVERAGES *for three years preceding* 1793.

Births	- - 24	Average of marriages	
Deaths	- - 24	for 5 years	- 5

AGES.

Persons under 10 years of age	- - 215
—— between 10 and 20	- - 168
—— —— 20 and 50	- - 343
—— —— 50 and 70	- - 110
—— —— 70 and 100	- - 19
	855

PROFESSIONS AND CONDITIONS.

Proprietors of land	16	Apprentices	- - 4
Farmers	- - 74	Public-house keepers	2
Smiths	- - 3	Schoolmasters	- 2
Joiners	- - 5	Salary of the principal schoolmaster	- L. 10
Shoemakers	- - 3	Ditto of the second ditto, with bed, board, and washing	- L. 3
Tailors	- - 4		
Weavers	- - 8		
Masons	- - 3	Scholars in the principal school	- - 45
Millers	- - 3		
Household servants	137	Ditto in the next school	30
Labouring ditto and cottagers	- - 38	Prisoner for debt	- 1
		Ditto for alledged murder, since 1790	1
Clergymen	- - 2		
Merchant	- - 1		

CATTLE, &c.

Horses	- - 195	Carts	- - 83
Black cattle	- 2299	Ploughs	- - 67
Sheep	- - 752		

HOUSES,

HOUSES, RENTS, &c.

Farm houſes rebuilt within the laſt 10 years	13
Cottages ditto	18
Valued rent in Scotch money	L. 3445
Real rent in Sterling	5054
Miniſter's ſtipend	73

Commerce.—The pariſh of Buittle has no commerce, except what conſiſts in the exportation of barley, oats, potatoes, &c. to England and Glaſgow, and the ſending of black cattle to the Engliſh markets. After every acceſſion of agricultural and mechanical knowledge, it is a queſtion but the old obſervation on Galloway, and eſpecially this part of it, may hold good, "*Univerſa pecoris quam frumenti fertilior.*" More eſpecially of late, many creditable people have contended, that the improvement of the breed of ſheep, and the growth of wool, would render this country more valuable to all concerned, than ever it has been heretofore; perhaps it might here be equally tedious and impertinent to enhance the idea.

Roads, Wood, &c.—The roads are tolerable, rather becauſe the ſoil is hard and dry, than becauſe the management of them hitherto has been judicious, or the expenditures regarding them liberal. There is not one village in all the pariſh, nor is there any kind of manufacture. Indeed, for many years paſt, the want of fuel ſeems to have acted as a prohibition reſpecting both. Even the veſtiges of ſome villages, of which we read in the charters of ſome eſtates, cannot now be diſcerned. Of wood there may be growing, and even fit for cutting, at this day, to the value of 10,000 l. and the late plantations abundantly repay the care and induſtry of the owners. Aſh and oak are the trees moſt com-

mon;—the larix is the favourite plant of the day; but its rapid and towring growth renders it incommodious to be interſperſed in plantations. It ſeems thus to be threatened with exile to the tops of hills. Even there, few of the ſpecies fail.

Schools.—Knowledge, as to both its ſtate and extent, is as reſpectable in Buittle as could well be ſuppoſed, whilſt the opportunities of acquiring it are conſidered. There is a public ſchool, to which moſt of the children attending it travel ſome 2, ſome 3 miles. The ſchoolmaſter is choſen from year to year, as it is called, and the only ſecurity for his ſalary of 10 l. is the good will of the heritors. There is alſo a cheaper ſchool, having a ſtipend of 3 l. *per annum*: Thus the whole funds of public inſtruction, for the riſing generation, for the whole pariſh of Buittle, are 13 l. Sterling!—What can be the meaning of this parſimony? Is it from the learned, the well informed, the religious,—or is it from the ignorant, "the mole-ey'd, half diſcerning," and conſequently unprincipled, that civil ſociety juſt now ſtands in dread?—From ſome circumſtances, one would think it was from the former.

Poor.—Buittle has no poor's rate, in conſequence few poor, and no travelling beggars. The collections in the church, joined to the prudent charity of well diſpoſed perſons, afford abundant ſupply to thoſe really in need.—Vagabond beggars, the ſcum of cities, who beg half-a-crown a day to drink it at night, are pretty numerous, and often troubleſome; nor is the law of the land very ſtrictly executed, in repreſſing theſe peſts of ſociety. Indeed, the failure of manufactures at preſent, affords them too good an excuſe for their idleneſs.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—It is now the diſpoſition of the world, (perhaps it may not decreaſe), rather to know how things *are*, than how they *have been*. Were it proper to ſwell a work of uſefulneſs, and to load the page of profitable information with urns, coins, calcined bones, unfaſhionable implements of ſlaughter, and other precious relics, over which the conjectural tribe of antiquaries rejoice or lament, we might mention numerous diſcoveries of the kind made hereabouts. On ſuch matters few words ſhall be uſed.—The *Caſtle of Buittle* is aſſuredly the moſt conſiderable remain of antiquity in the pariſh. Some have affirmed, that it was formerly called the Caſtle of *Knare*, *Nare*, or *Bar-nare*, and was the chief reſidence of the Reguli of Galloway. An adjoining hill, named *Craig-nair*, gives ſome weight to this ſuppoſition. Yet when we recollect, how large a diviſion of the Britiſh iſland * once bore the name of Gallovidia, or the province of the Galwalenſes, (Strath Clyde), and that ſeveral places in this great extent of country, both from name and ſituation †, may

* *Buchananus enim, non ab aliis modo, ſed a ſe ipſo diverſus abit*, ſays Mr Ruddiman. Here that remark would ſeem to be juſtified. In lib. 1. Buchanan makes Gallovidia to ſignify Gaul in the Scotch language, and what but Gauls were the Galwalenſes, or Cumbrian Britons? In lib. 5. however, Buchanan makes Gallovidia a ſingle county, peopled with Hibernian Scotch. Again, in lib. 8. he mentions a diſpute between William the Lion, and the King of England, as to the vaſſalage of the Lords of Galloway, and he makes Earl Allan vaſſal to both, on decent terms indeed.—The truth is, Buchanan was too buſy in ſettling kingdoms, to be preciſe as to the limits of counties. Truly does that great man ſay §, "*Ita tamen cum iniquitate temporum* "*conflexerim ut aliquid reſtitiſſe videar.*" Even from the haſty account which he gives, it may well be ſuppoſed, that part of the antient *Gallovidia* lay in Scotland, part in England.

† E. G. *Botel*, now called *Bol*, in Cumberland, and *Barnard Caſtle*, in Durham.

§ BUCHAN. *de Jure Regni apud Scotos.*

may as probably have been the princely reſidence, as the Caſtle of Buittle—there is reaſon for our leaving thoſe who think themſelves competent, and intereſted in this matter, to decide. Country clergymen may well be excuſed, for ignorance in concerns very little allied to the ſucceſs of their labours. Certain it is, however, that the ruins of Buittle Caſtle denote it to have been a place of ſtrength, and even magnificence. It now belongs, with its precincts, as contained in the charter, to Mr Murray of Broughton, the repreſentative of the Caillie family. The vaults and ditches of Buittle Caſtle, are all that remain of this proud ſtructure. They have baffled the ravages of time for ſeveral centuries, and may for ſeveral more. The vaults are covered with large aſh trees; and into theſe ſubterraneous parts of the Caſtle, no perſon has ever penetrated, though it might be done with eaſe and ſafety, probably with much gratification to curioſity.—Beſides the Caſtle of Buittle, the only other remembrance of ages equally rude and remote, which ſhall be mentioned here, is one of thoſe ruins, commonly called *vitrified*

‡ Probably it was built by Allan, Lord of Galloway, huſband to Margaret, the eldeſt daughter of David Earl of Huntindon, and father of Dervigilda the mother of John Baliol. About 7 years ago, there was found in a lump of lime, taken from the ruins of the Caſtle, an old coin of yellow metal, a ſhade lighter than common braſs. On one ſide were inſcribed the names of Nuremberg, and ſeveral other towns in Germany or Flanders, with the word *Pfenning*, and on the other ſide a coat of arms ſuppoſed to be imperial. The date of the coin was 1220. From this, indeed, nothing concluſive can be affirmed; only about the year 1220, Earl Allan muſt have been 56 years of age, and muſt have attained to the meridian of his good fortune and power. After belonging to the Baliols, the Cummings, the Douglaſes, this Caſtle ſeems to have become the property of the Lennoxes of Caillie.

vitrified forts *. Veſtiges of ſuch buildings are not uncommon in the lower parts of Galloway, and the one now alluded to ſtands on the north-weſt border of Buittle pariſh, within a farm called *Caſtle-Gower*, which lies along the march of Kelton.

Climate

* Few people are ignorant of the romantic opinion advanced and adopted, reſpecting thoſe vitrified forts, as they are called, namely, that they were ſtructures of dry ſtone, cemented and conſolidated through fuſion, which was procured by ſetting fire to immenſe piles of green timber, all around the wall or caſtle that was to be thus ingeniouſly finiſhed.

The difficulties viſibly attending this theory would not be few, if detailed, and may ſafely be left with men of ſenſe. Suffice it to ſay, that Caeſar leads us to conjectures fully more probable than the above. That author tells us †, that the Gauls, whom he calls *genus ſummae ſolertiae*, built almoſt every wall with a kind of wooden frames, in which the upright beams were placed about two feet from one another, and the void ſpaces filled up with ſtone. Caeſar commends the invention, as a wall thus conſtructed did not eaſily yield, either to the ram or to fire. But in Scotland, a few centuries ago, it will hardly be denied, that moſt of the caſtles, not taken by ſcalade, were reduced by rolling banks, or huge faſcines of wood, which were puſhed up to the walls, and then ſet on fire. When one, therefore, lights on a maſs of vitrified ſtones, here and there interſperſed with fragments of burnt wood, and bits of charcoal, he is almoſt as ready to believe, that fire has been employed for demoliſhing, as in erecting the pile, whatever ingenuity may advance to the contrary. This obſervation, however, is not offered pragmatically. If made before by any body, no doubt it has been already decided upon. Speaking farther of the upright beams, Caeſar ſays, "*revinciuntur introrſus, et multo aggere veſtiuntur.*" Now *agger* more frequently ſignifies a bank of ſtones, than a bank of earth. He obſerves afterwards, that the thickneſs of a wall thus formed was very great.—"*Materia—perpetuis trabibus, pedis quadragenos plerumque introrſus revincta.*" —Agreeable to this, theſe walls, commonly called vitrified, are ever found, in this part of the iſland at leaſt, exceeding thick; whom

† *De Bello Gall. lib. vii. cap. XXIII.*

Climate and Character.—As the soil of Buittle is in general dry, as the air of it is good, and the tract of country it comprehends warm, good health and length of days are correspondent to those aids of both. "*Medicina summa medica-*"*mentis non uti.*" With this most important maxim of physic, the inhabitants of Buittle are well acquainted, without consulting antiquity. There is a surgeon about a mile from the border of the parish, and an attorney at nearly the same distance. Either, or both of them, will come if sent for, but this is as seldom as possible. Indeed it is just rather than complimentary, to say, that the morals of the inhabitants of this parish, as seldom need the interference of law, as their health does the aids of physic.—Religion is still reverenced, and they esteem a *Christian Church* the best *temple of reason.* To mention politics might be extraneous and petulant, rather than serviceable to the work for which this article is designed, were it not that it becomes every good citizen, at a time like the present, to omit nothing that may any wise increase public confidence, or allay capricious innovation. Independent in their sentiments, and in their circumstances, the people of Buittle, (like many of the county to which they belong) seem neither so besotted as to imagine, that any human form of government is without infirmity, nor so infatuated as to believe, that every thing is wrong in our own, and that reformation must be sought in anarchy. The apostles of Mr PAINE seemed at one time assiduous, and his works, (and works of less merit too), were as common as the church catechism. They are now forgotten. One idea has of late this

and the inner part resembling an *agger* of small stones; but the walls of castles must have been proportionally more slender than those of large towns. In either case, however, the quantity of wood in such buildings must have been very great, and sufficient to vitrify many kinds of stone, if the wood was once fairly set on fire.

more affected the public mind. That ſpirit of unity and indiviſibility, that is, of arrogance and depredation, which has ſo fatally attracted the rabble of Paris, may prevail in Edinburgh or Glaſgow:—Should that be the caſe, the peaceable and unarmed inhabitants of the country know what awaits them. On this principle, it is believed, more national guards might be enliſted in this quarter in one day, than all the declamations againſt regal tyranny, or parliamentary corruption, could aſſemble in a twelvemonth. The lowering the freehold qualification, and the abrogating or limiting the law of patronage, have been the ultimatum of propoſed reformation in this country.

Diſadvantages.—If theſe and the like are ſpeculative and imaginary grievances, we have but few real ones to complain of. Inſtances, however, of this kind might be given. That *PENTE* of the waters, (as modern naturaliſts ſay), which is manifeſted by the retreat of the ſea on every weſtern coaſt, is abundantly remarkable on the ſhores of the Solway Frith. Many acres there, which were barren ſand 30 years ago, are now good paſture land; and in the middle of this arm of the ſea, banks or mountains are daily increaſing in ſize, ſo that they will ſoon be iſlands, and will ſoon be arable. The conſequent ſhallowneſs of the Frith, and of the river Urr, renders it therefore impoſſible, that the navigation of the Urr can be carried on by veſſels much above 50 tons burden; and theſe can only find acceſs at the uſual landing places, (and the moſt uſeful), at ſpring tides. Now, as the law ſtands, the fees, &c. of the cuſtom-houſe, are as high for a veſſel of 50 tons as for one of 500, and as high for a boat of 5 tons, as for a ſloop of 50. In a few years, however, the trade of this river muſt be carried on, perhaps, by veſſels as ſmall or ſmaller than any we have mentioned; and the proportioning

portioning of cuſtom-houſe fees, and the ſhortening of delays incident or uſual there, will then be objects of correſpondent magnitude. But the STATISTICAL ACCOUNT is not meant as a magazine of grievances. May providence avert greater than we have felt, perhaps than we have imagined!

The author of this article, having thus noticed every thing in the pariſh, where he does his duty, that he conceives helpful to public utility, and connected with the patriotic work he would wiſh to ſupport, claims from the reader that indulgence, in reſpect of literary endowment, which may well be looked for, by one who appears in print, from no view of profit or of praiſe, but (like many reverend gentlemen) from compulſion. *Minus aptus acutis naribus*—If it is now accepted, he hopes it may be a while before he has occaſion to repeat the above apology. Devoid of thoſe brilliant talents, and ill ſupported by that profound erudition, which Doctors, Chaplains, and Almoners only poſſeſs, the humble parſon of Buittle doubts if he has perſuaded the world, that in his humble pariſh, "all is for the beſt."—Happy ſhould he be, in believing, that the ſenſe of the public admitted things to be tolerable.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF CUPAR OF FIFE.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE.—PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR).

By the Rev. GEORGE CAMPBELL, *D. D. Miniſter.*

Situation, River, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh of CUPAR is ſituated in the middle of the peninſula of Fife. The river Eden divides it into two parts. It is of an irregular figure, meaſuring from eaſt to weſt 5 miles, and nearly of an equal extent from north to ſouth.

Etymologies.—The etymology of the name of the pariſh is unknown. The names of different places in it are evidently of Gaelic original; ſuch as *Pittencrieff*, (Gaelic, *Pit-nan-craobh*), Engliſh, the dale; *Kingaſk*, (Gaelic, *ceann-gaiſk*), Engliſh, the termination or ending of the lands of Gaiſg or Gaſk; *Pitbladdo*, a hollow, named after ſome perſon; *Kilmaron*, (Gaelic, *Cill-Mha-Roin*), Engliſh, the cell, or place of worſhip of St. Ron or St. Roan; *Balaſs*, *Balgarvie*, towns named after particular perſons.

Town of Cupar.—The burgh of Cupar, which is the county town, is beautifully ſituated in the center of the pariſh, on the northern bank of the Eden, in the ſpot where it

forms a junction with the water of St. Mary.—The town boaſts of high antiquity. The Thanes of Fife, from the earlieſt times of which any account has been tranſmitted to us, held here their courts of juſtice *. It is at preſent governed by a provoſt, three bailies, a dean-of-guild, 13 guild counſellors, who chooſe one another, and 8 trades counſellors or deacons, elected by the 8 incorporations.—The town of Cupar is the moſt wealthy community in the county of Fife. Its annual revenue, at preſent, amounts to 430 l. Sterling. In conjunction with the towns of Perth, Dundee, St. Andrews, and Forfar, it ſends a commiſſioner to Parliament. The revenue ariſing from the poſt-office, in 1763, was 20 l. per quarter; it now amounts to 90 l. Sterling per quarter.

Population.—The population, which was accurately aſcertained in the month of June 1793, has increaſed greatly within theſe 40 years, as appears from the following table:

POPULA-

* In the chartulary belonging to the Benedictine Monks of Dunfermline, we find a precept by "*Wilhelmus, Comes de Roſs, juſtitiarius ex parte boreali, maris Scoticani, conſtitutus,*" directed, "*Davidi de Vemys, vice-comiti de Fyfe,*" warranting him to deliver, to the monaſtery of Dunfermline, the eighth part of the amercements of Fife, impoſed in the courts held at Cupar, in the year 1239. In the rolls of the Parliament, aſſembled in the beginning of the reign of David II. may be ſeen the names of the Commiſſioners from the royal burgh of Cupar. The town, in antient times, depended on the Earls of Fife. The caſtle of Cupar was the chief reſidence of that powerful family for many ages. The town is in poſſeſſion of ſeveral royal charters, conferring on them extenſive property, and many valuable privileges.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF CUPAR OF FIFE.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Inhabitants in the town	1464	1671	3135
——— in the country	255	312	567
Number of ſouls in both	1719	1983	3702
Majority of females * -		264	
The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was			2192
		Increaſe	1510

A more particular ſtatement of the number of the inhabitants, ranked according to their different profeſſions and occupations, will be inſerted, along with other articles, in the STATISTICAL TABLE, at the concluſion of this account.

Buildings, &c.—Cupar, eſpecially when approached by the turnpike road from the eaſt, has the appearance of a neat, clean, well built, thriving town. The ſtreets, within the laſt twelve months, have been all completely paved at the expence of the corporation. There are no houſes in ruins, and none untenanted. Upwards of a third part of the town has been rebuilt, during the laſt 25 years, in a neat and handſome ſtile. Conſiderable additions have alſo been made.

No

* The number of females, ſo much exceeding that of the males, muſt be accounted for chiefly from this circumſtance, that the youth of Cupar, at all times forward to engage in the military life, are many of them, at preſent, abroad in the ſervice of their country. The population has advanced rapidly of late years, owing to the extenſion of the linen manufacture, and to the increaſed demand for hands employed in erecting new buildings, and in carrying on important and extenſive improvements in gardening and agriculture.

No leſs than 70 houſes, chiefly for manufacturers and labourers, have lately been built on *St Mary's Water*, or, as it is called, *the Lady Burn*. A ſtreet, in a better ſtile, has begun to be formed, on the road leading from the bridge on the ſouth ſide of the town.

Church.—The parochial church of Cupar, in early times, ſtood at a conſiderable diſtance from the town, towards the north, on a riſing ground, now known by the name of *the Old Kirk-yard*. The foundations of this ancient building were removed by the preſent proprietor, in 1759; and many human bones, turned up in the adjoining field by the plough, were collected and buried in the earth. In the year 1415, this ſtructure had become ruinous, or incapable of accommodating the numbers who reſorted to it. In the courſe of that year, the prior of St. Andrews, (the head of all the regular clergy in Scotland, and poſſeſſed of immenſe revenues), for the better accommodation of the inhabitants of the town of Cupar, and that the rites of religion might be celebrated with a pomp, gratifying to the taſte of the age, erected, within the royalty, a ſpacious and magnificent church. The year in which this erection took place, is aſcertained by the following extract from the Book of Paiſley: —"*Sal: Hum.* 1415. *In Cupro de Fyfe fundata eſt nova "parochialis eccleſia, quae prius diſtabat a Burgo ad plagam bo- "realem.*" This church was built in the beſt ſtile of the times, of poliſhed free ſtone, in length 133 feet, by 54 in breadth. The roof was ſupported by two rows of arches, extending the whole length of the church. The oak couples were of a circular form, lined with wood, and painted in the taſte of the times. In 1785, this extenſive building was found to be in a ſtate of total decay. The heritors of the pariſh reſolved to pull down the old fabric, and to erect, on

on the ſame ſite, a church on a more convenient plan. This plan they have accordingly carried into execution, at a very conſiderable expence; and the new church of Cupar is by far the moſt convenient and elegant ſtructure of the kind, to be found at preſent in the county of Fife. It is to be regretted, however, that the new building was not joined to the ſpire of the old church, which ſtill ſtands. The veſtry, or ſeſſion-houſe, by intervening between the church and ſpire, gives a detached and aukward appearance to both. The ſpire has always been conſidered as a very handſome ſtructure, and appears light and elegant when viewed from the eaſt or weſt. It was built by the Prior of St. Andrews, in 1415, only up to the battlement. All above that was added in the beginning of the laſt century, by Mr William Scot*, who was for many years miniſter of Cupar.

County Room.—During the period in which the church was erected, the gentlemen of the county, by ſubſcription, and by an aſſeſſment on their valued rents, built on a large ſcale, and in the modern taſte, adjoining to the town-houſe, a room for their uſe at head courts, for their accommodation at balls, &c. A tea-room, and other apartments, have ſince been added.

Priſons.—On the oppoſite end of the town-houſe, and under the ſame roof, there are apartments of a very different nature, not conſtructed for the elegant accommodation of the rich and

* This gentleman was of the antient family of BALWEARIE, poſſeſſed of a conſiderable eſtate, and a great favourite with Archbiſhop Spottiſwood, with whom he paſſed much of his time in the neighbouring delightful retreat of Dairſie. He died in 1642, in his 85th year, and his remains were interred in a handſome tomb, erected by his family, at the weſt end of the church-yard.

and powerful, and to add to the ſplendour of their "gay. "ſpent feſtive nights;" but calculated for ſecuring and puniſhing thoſe, who, by their miſconduct or their crimes, have ſubjected themſelves to the arm of the law, and which have continued, in their preſent form, for ages paſt, the diſmal receptacles of the accuſed, the profligate, and the guilty. —The priſons of Scotland, (if with propriety we can give that name to the dungeons in which, all over the kingdom, criminals are confined), accord but too well with the barbariſm which marked and diſgraced that remote period, in which moſt of them were erected, and with that ſavage and illiberal ſpirit, which ſeems to have dictated no inconſiderable part of our criminal code. The priſon of Cupar, which is the public jail, for the very populous and wealthy county of Fife, yields perhaps to none, in point of the meanneſs, the filth, and wretchedneſs of its accommodations. It is, in truth, a reproach to the town in which it ſtands, a diſgrace to the county which employs it, and a ſtain on that benevolent and compaſſionate ſpirit, which diſtinguiſhes and dignifies this enlightened age, and which has led it kindly to attend to "the ſorrowful ſighing of the pri- "ſoner," to meliorate his ſituation, and ſoothe his woes. How would the feelings of the benevolent HOWARD, who, with unparallelled activity, and aſtoniſhing perſeverance, unſhaken and unterrified, like a kind angel, went through every land, demanding and obtaining comfort to the wretched, and liberty to the captive!—How would his feelings have been ſhocked, if, in his compaſſionate tour, he had turned aſide into the peninſula of Fife, and viſited the cells of Cupar!

The apartment deſtined for debtors is tolerably decent, and well lighted. Very different is the ſtate of the priſon under it, known by the name of "the Iron-houſe," in which perſons ſuſpected of theft, &c. are confined. This is a dark, damp,

damp, vaulted dungeon, compoſed entirely of ſtone, without a fire-place, or any the moſt wretched accommodation. It is impoſſible, indeed, by language, to exaggerate the horrors which here preſent themſelves. Into this diſmal receſs, the beams of the ſun can with difficulty penetrate. Here "is "no light, but rather darkneſs viſible:" A few faint rays, entering by an irregular aperture of about 9 inches ſquare, barely ſuffice to diſcloſe the horrors of the place. An opening, or ſlit, on another ſide of the dungeon, thirty inches in length by two in breadth, but almoſt filled by a large bar of iron, ſerves to admit as much freſh air as merely to prevent ſuffocation. As the aſſizes for the county are held at Perth only in ſpring and autumn, priſoners have frequently been doomed to lie in this cold dungeon, during the rigour of the ſevereſt winters.—The conſequences may eaſily be apprehended. It is to be hoped, however, that the period is now happily arrived, when the landholders of Scotland, having more humane ſentiments and enlarged views, than thoſe who went before them, will attend to the wretched ſtate of the different county jails, and be diſpoſed to follow the example of the neighbouring kingdom, in which, of late years, many priſons, bridewells, &c. have been erected, on plans of the moſt extenſive benevolence, and of the ſoundeſt and moſt enlightened policy. A ſum of money, adequate to the expence of building a priſon on a modern improved plan; a penitentiary-houſe, with accommodations alſo for the deſtitute ſick, might, it is believed, without much difficulty, be procured in the rich and extenſive county of Fife, were a few men of rank and public ſpirit to patronize and ſupport the benevolent attempt. Were the ſum to be levied from the three different orders of men, who are chiefly to be benefited by the new erection, namely landholders, manufacturers, and farmers, the proportion neceſſary to be advanced by individuals

dividuals would appear but ſmall, and the burden would ſcarcely be felt by the county. Perhaps they could adopt no plan which promiſes to be of ſo much public utility. A meaſure of this kind will appear every day of more preſſing neceſſity, when the Bridewell now building at Edinburgh ſhall be finiſhed. If Fife takes no ſtep to defend itſelf againſt the influx of pickpockets, ſwindlers, &c. which may naturally be expected, it will become the general receptacle of ſturdy beggars and vagrants; and the riſing induſtry of the county muſt be expoſed to the depredations of the deſperate and the profligate, from every quarter *.

Manufactures.—In Cupar, and the neighbouring country, a conſiderable manufacture of coarſe linens has been eſtabliſhed. They conſiſt chiefly of *yard-wides*, as they are commonly named, for buckram, glazed linens, &c. There alſo they manufacture Oſnaburghs, tow ſheetings, and Sileſias. About 500,000 yards are annually ſtamped in Cupar, which amount in value to about 20,000 l. Sterling. Cupar being the principal market in Fife for brown linens of the above deſcription, webs from the adjoining country, to the value of more than 20,000 l. come to be ſold there. All theſe are purchaſed with ready money, and ſent to London, Glaſgow, and other markets.—The linen merchants in Cupar pay annually

* Though, in deſcribing the priſons of Cupar, the writer may have been led to adopt terms ſeemingly harſh and ſevere, yet he means not to convey, in the moſt diſtant manner, reflections or cenſure on any body of men, or on any individual. He has frequently had occaſion to praiſe the humanity of thoſe, to whoſe care priſoners at Cupar are committed, and to witneſs every kind attention paid to them, which the nature of the place in which they are confined would permit. He only wiſhed to embrace the opportunity, which the preſent publication affords, of turning the attention of the county, to objects which he deems extremely intereſting and important to ſociety.

nually to the manufacturers and weavers, betwixt 40,000 l. and 50,000 l.—There are at preſent in the pariſh 223 looms, employed chiefly in making linens of the deſcription given above.—There are two tan-works in Cupar, where conſiderable quantities of leather are manufactured.—The demand for ſaddlery from the ſurrounding country is increaſed of late years, in an extraordinary degree, and is ſupplied from the work-ſhops at Cupar. The bleaching field on the Eden is in good repute. The brick and tile work has long been profitable to the proprietors, and ſtill continues to thrive, but is not yet able to anſwer the great demand for tiles.

Obſtacles to their ſucceſs.—Cupar, though enjoying many natural advantages; though ſituated in the midſt of a plentiful country; on a river that never ceaſes, even in the ſevereſt drought, to flow in abundance; in the immediate vicinity of lime, free-ſtone, and coal, yet poſſeſſes no conſiderable manufacture, that of linen excepted.—This want of attention, induſtry, and exertion in the inhabitants, in improving the happy ſituation in which they are placed, may, in a great meaſure, be aſcribed to the two following cauſes. In the firſt place, *burgh politics* have ever operated here as a fatal check to induſtry. A ſucceſſion of conteſted elections have introduced, and, it is to be feared, confirmed, among the members of the incorporations, habits of idleneſs, diſſipation, and vice. Miſled by that ſelf importance, which the long expected return of the burgh canvaſs beſtows; ſeduced by the flattering attentions and promiſes of the great; accuſtomed to the plenty and coviviality of the tavern, open to him at all hours, the tradeſman learns to deſpiſe the moderate profits ariſing from the regular performance of his accuſtomed toil: He quits the path which alone could have conducted him to peace, and comfort, and independence; he

ſeldom viſits his work-houſe or his ſhop, and when the election has at length taken place, and the ſcenes, which had ſo much engroſſed and faſcinated him, have vaniſhed, he awakes to ſolitude and want, and, with extreme difficulty, can prevail on himſelf again to enter on the rugged taſks of patient induſtry. But the ſucceſs of manufactures in Cupar has hitherto been retarded by another cauſe, of a very different nature, the great expence of land carriage. St. Andrew's, Leven, Newburgh, and Dundee, are the neareſt ſea-ports, though all of them are diſtant 9 Engliſh miles. Thus the manufacturer muſt bring to Cupar the raw materials he uſes, at a very heavy expence; and his different articles, when finiſhed, cannot be again conveyed to the ſea ſhore, but at an additional charge.

Advantages to be derived from a Navigable Canal.—To enable the induſtry of the inhabitants to riſe ſuperior to this natural diſadvantage, it has been ſuggeſted, that a navigable canal might be formed, nearly in the courſe of the Eden, as high as Cupar. The river falls into the ſea about 9 miles below the town. The greater part of the channel is already navigable. The tide riſes as high as Lydox Mill, little more than 3 Engliſh miles from Cupar. The fall from the town is very gradual, and to the place to which the tide riſes, thought not to be more than 26 feet. It is thus evident, that a navigable canal might be formed, as far as Cupar, at no very formidable expence. The advantages to be derived from this cut, to the inhabitants of the town and of the neighbouring country, would be great indeed, and could not be eaſily calculated. Cupar is already the ſtore-houſe, to an extenſive tract of country, for iron, tar, ropes, bricks, tiles, wines, ſpirits, graſs ſeeds, ſoap, candles, tobacco, tea, ſugar, fruits, and all kinds of groceries. The ſaving in the carriage

of

of theſe articles, to thoſe who deal in them, ſuppoſing the conſumption to be no greater than it already is, would be immenſe. Vaſt advantages would likewiſe be experienced by Cupar and its vicinity, in the eaſier rate at which they would be ſupplied with timber and ſlates for building, now brought, at a very great expence, from St. Andrew's, Dundee, &c.; by the farmers on both ſides of the river, in the convenient ſupply of lime and other manures; and by all ranks, in the reduction of the price of that expenſive, but neceſſary article of daily conſumption, coal.—Scotland has at laſt opened her eyes, to the vaſt advantages to be derived to her commerce and agriculture, from the eaſe and ſmall expence of water carriage. She now follows, with ſpirit and ſteadineſs, the bold and ſucceſsful ſteps of her ſiſter kingdom; and when thoſe canals, on a grand ſcale, which are now carrying on, ſhall be finiſhed, it is to be hoped, that this cut on the Eden, will be one of the firſt, on a more humble plan, to be adopted and executed.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The diſtrict of Cupar formed a pariſh in early times, when the great parochial diviſions of Crail, Kilrenny, Kilconquhar, St. Andrew's, Leuchars, and a few others, comprehended all the eaſtern part of the county. The ſmall pariſh of St. Michael's, lying on the ſouth of the Eden, was joined to that of Cupar in the beginning of the laſt century. The church belonging to the pariſh ſtood on that beautiful ſpot, now known by the name of *St. Michael's Hill.* Human bones are ſtill occaſionally diſcovered in the field, when the operations of huſbandry are going forward. The ruins of a ſmall chapel, ſituated near the eaſtern boundary of the lands of Kilmaron, were to be ſeen not many years ago.

The church of Cupar is collegiate. The King is patron of

of both charges. The ſtipend, annexed to the firſt, conſiſts of 8½ chalders of meal and grain, and about 25 l. in money, with a ſmall glebe. Of the grain and meal, there are only paid, within the pariſh of Cupar, 19 bolls. The ſtipend of the ſecond miniſter is about 1000 l. Scotch. There is no manſe belonging to either of the miniſters.

Religious Perſuaſions.—Till within theſe few months, there has always been an Epiſcopal meeting-houſe in Cupar, having a fixed paſtor reſiding in the town, or in the immediate vicinity. At preſent the people of that perſuaſion, who are now reduced to a very ſmall number, aſſemble for public worſhip only occaſionally, when the Epiſcopal miniſter from Pittenweem preſides. The ſect of Relief have a meeting-houſe in Cupar, built in 1769. The number of members in the pariſh, belonging to this congregation, cannot eaſily be aſcertained, as they are in a ſtate of conſtant fluctuation. There are alſo a few Burghers and Antiburghers, who belong to the congregations who meet at Ceres and Rathillet. About 7 or 8 perſons aſſemble on the Lord's Day, in a private houſe in town, for the purpoſes of devotion; but their principles and mode of worſhip are not known.—It is pleaſant to conclude this detail of the religious perſuaſions which prevail in this place, with remarking, that the ſectaries in Cupar live on good terms with their neighbours, the members of the Eſtabliſhed Church;—that their different opinions in religion ſeldom interrupt the ſocial intercourſe of life, or prevent them from doing kind offices to one another;—that a more liberal and benevolent ſpirit begins at laſt to prevail; and that, except among a few, that gloomineſs of aſpect, that bitterneſs of ſpirit, and that fierceneſs of zeal, which in former times marked and diſgraced the different ſects, are, at the preſent day, happily unknown.

Poor,

Poor.—Though the parish of Cupar is very populous, yet, during the last 20 years, there have never been, at any time, more than from 4 to 7 beggars belonging to it. The number of begging poor is at present 5. The number of poor house-holders, however, is very considerable. Fifteen receive from the kirk-session a weekly allowance, proportioned to their various claims A far greater number are supplied occasionally. Parochial assessments, for the maintainance of the poor, in this part of the kingdom, are yet unknown; yet a more decent and adequate provision is made for the support of the indigent in Cupar, than in most parishes, perhaps, where these obtain, and where the population is equally great. The poor receive annually, collected at the doors of the church, between 70l and 80l.; and 16l. as the interest of a fund in money, which has long been their property.—In a building which stands near to the church, known by the name of *the Alms-Houses*, and under the management of the kirk session, a few aged and infirm women are lodged, and, in part, supported, out of the above fund.—But, besides the considerable supplies, which the poor thus receive from the ordinary parochial fund, they are indebted to the liberal spirit of public bodies, and to the compassion of individuals, for essential and seasonable support The town of Cupar, greatly to their credit, give liberally out of the revenue of the burgh, to the indigent and distressed. The incorporations, too, as far as their scanty funds will permit, contribute to the relief of their decayed members. A society has been formed, among tradesmen and mechanics, which has the happiest effects. By contributing, when in health, a very small sum weekly, they provide for their support in sickness and old age. The ladies of several of the principal heritors of the parish, who constantly reside in it, have each of them their list of weekly pensioners,

sioners, to whose wants they kindly and regularly attend; and other individuals are not more distinguished by their rank and opulence, than by their extensive charity, and exemplary benevolence *.—It may be said with the strictest regard to truth, (and to the honour of the humanity of the age, and of the place, it ought indeed by no means to be concealed), that no case of private distress is made known, which does not here meet with kind sympathy, and instant relief; that no time of general scarcity occurs, which does not bear testimony to the virtue of individuals, and call forth the most benevolent exertions. These acts of beneficence are by no means peculiar to those of high rank, and in affluent circumstances; instances of compassion to the afflicted, and of relief extended to the indigent, frequently occur among those placed in the humbler walks of life, which do honour to themselves and to humanity.

Vagrant Beggars.—Though the town of Cupar may be said

* In the year 1782, the price of meal rose to an enormous height. That the poor might be enabled to purchase their usual supply, the session added to their ordinary distributions the sum of 50l. the savings of former years. They divided also to the necessitous 25l. raised for their use by the humane and benevolent, by the laudable and efficient scheme of a *subscription ball.* Owing to these and some other donations of less consideration, the poor in Cupar were happily preserved from the pressure of want, during that year of general distress.—In the course of the last wintner, (1793), coals, all over the kingdom, were extremely scarce and high priced. That the poor might not suffer from the want of fuel, and that coals might be sold to them at the ordinary rate, the town of Cupar generously gave 20 guineas, to assist in reducing the price of this necessary article. A nobleman, who probably would not wish his name to be mentioned, sent to the town 15 guineas to purchase coals for the poor. The residing heritors of the parish also liberally contributed to the same benevolent purpose. One gentleman gave 5 guineas, another 3, &c.

ſaid to have almoſt no begging poor belonging to it, yet there is no town perhaps in Scotland, of the ſame extent, where a greater number are daily ſeen infeſting the ſtreets. Cupar being the principal thoroughfare, on the great turnpike road leading through the county of Fife, and no plan being ſteadily followed, to prevent the numerous vagrants paſſing from north to ſouth, and from ſouth to north, to beg the whole round of the town, the inhabitants are daily ſubjected to their importunities and extortions. To the diſgrace of the police alſo, ſeveral houſes are ſtill to be found in Cupar, that harbour the idle and the profligate, from whatever quarter they come. In the day they prowl in the neighbouring country, giving out, that they are poor from the pariſh of Cupar, and beg or plunder by turns, as opportunities offer. At night, they return to the infamous receptacles which they had left in the morning, diſpoſe there of their ſpoils, and riot and carouſe, at the expence of the ſimple, the ſober, and the induſtrious. In truth a ſum of money could not be laid out by the community ſo frugally, or ſo much to the advantage of the town and of the neighbourhood, as in hiring a perſon, whoſe ſole buſineſs it ſhould be to prevent foreign poor from begging in Cupar, and to apprehend all vagrant ſtrangers, who cannot give a proper account of themſelves.

It is hoped, that it will not be deemed improper, or in any degree diſreſpectful to the laws and conſtitution of the country, to conclude this article with obſerving, that the acts of the Parliament of Scotland, intended to operate for the regulation and maintenance of the poor, are many of them become of little uſe, and inapplicable to the preſent ſtate of ſociety. Whoever has lived in England; whoever has paid attention to the legal proviſion made in that country, for the maintenance of the poor; whoever has witneſſed the formidable amount to which the tax in ſome diſtricts riſes, how

fatally

fatally it sometimes operates, as an encouragement to idleness, and check to industry; whoever has paid attention to these circumstances, would never wish to see *poor's rates* established in Scotland. Yet, every one who has been, during any considerable length of time, concerned in the management of a parish fund in this country, must frequently, from the imperfection and inconsistency of our acts of Parliament relating to this business, have felt himself difficulted, and must have wished for a new law, containing proper regulations on this subject, so very important and interesting to society—particularly for a statute, defining accurately these two points:

1*st*, Who are the poor, or who are they who have a legal claim to maintenance in a parish?

2*dly*, Who are the sole and legal administrators of the funds belonging to the poor *?

Schools.—The schools of Cupar meet in a convenient and hand-

* The arguments against the establishment of poor's rates, have often been stated to the public. It is unnecessary here to repeat them. From what has been represented, with respect to the maintenance of the poor of Cupar, it is evident that a decent provision may be made for the indigent, without adopting a practice, that has been attended with such pernicious effects wherever it has been established. If the landholders of Scotland understand their own interest; if they entertain a deep and grateful sense of the prudence, and purity, and disinterestedness of ministers and kirk-sessions, in the management of the funds belonging to the poor intrusted to their care; if they are interested in the comfort of those with whose welfare their own prosperity is intimately connected—while they reprobate parochial assessments, and all their baleful consequences to society, they will chearfully follow the only plan, which, in many parishes, can prevent their establishment—they will regularly contribute, on the Lord's Day, to the relief of the poor in those parishes where their property lies, whether they reside or not, and whether or not they attend public worship.

handſome building, erected in the year 1727, by the Magiſtrates and Council, who are patrons, in a very pleaſant and airy ſituation, on the Caſtle-hill. The houſe is divided into two apartments, which have ſeparate entries, and which have no communication with each other. In the one are taught Latin, French, Geography, &c.; in the other, Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, menſuration, &c. The rector of the grammar ſchool has a ſalary of 30 l.; the maſter of the Engliſh ſchool, a ſalary of 17 l. Both are paid by the town. The fees paid by the ſcholars, as regulated by the Town Council, are 3 s. per quarter for Latin, 1 s. 6 d. for Engliſh, 2 s. for writing and arithmetic, beſides dues paid at the new year and Candlemas. The ſchool of Cupar has, in different periods, been in high repute; and, from the attention, ardour, and abilities of the preſent teachers, bids fair to attain its antient celebrity.

Climate, Diſeaſes, &c.—The inhabitants of Cupar juſtly boaſt of the ſalubrity of the air in which they breathe. Situated in the dry bottom of a delightful vale, bleſſed with many abundant ſprings of the pureſt water, waſhed by the river Eden on the ſouth, and the ſtream of St. Mary on the north, fenced from the violence of every tempeſt, by the green and fertile hills which almoſt encircle the town, and bound the plain of Eden, they often enjoy a happy exemption from thoſe diſeaſes which lurk in marſhy diſtricts, and which frequently viſit and afflict tracts of country, at no very conſiderable diſtance. The running waters, which never ceaſe to fill the channels of the Eden, no doubt, in a particular manner, contribute to the health of the inhabitants, and to the beauty of the ſurrounding region. The placid ſtream of the river, and the ſcenery, which diverſifies

and adorns its banks, long ſince touched the imagination of the Poet *, and found a place in his ſong.

" *Arva inter nemoriſque umbras, et paſcua laeta*
" *Lene fluens, vitreis, labitur* EDEN, *aquis.*"

The view from the Caſtle-hill, though it cannot boaſt of being extenſive, yet, in point of richneſs, beauty, and variety, yields perhaps to few proſpects which are purely inland. On all ſides, the chearful aſpect of a cultivated and thriving country meets the eye. Numerous farm houſes ſtud and enliven the ſurrounding gentle acclivities. At various diſtances, buildings of a more magnificent form, elegant and ſtately villas, tower on the riſing grounds †. It may with truth be affirmed, that diſeaſes have ſeldom proved epidemic in Cupar. Few infants now die of the ſmall pox, as inoculation, under the direction of excellent practitioners, daily gains ground. Many of thoſe, who are cut off in the early period of life, ſeem to fall victims to a cruel and fatal diſeaſe, till of late but ſeldom noticed by phyſicians, the croup, or inflammation of the wind-pipe. It belongs to others to attempt to account for the frequency of this diſtemper.—The vale in which Cupar is ſituated, though poſſeſſing many advantages, is ſometimes viſited by dreadful thunder

* JOHNSTONE.

† Attracted by the pleaſant and healthful ſituation of the vale in which the town ſtands, our kings, when they lived in the neighbouring palace of Faikland, placed (ſays the current tradition) the family nurſery at Cupar; and the royal children had apartments fitted up for them, in the religious houſe belonging to the Benedictines, adjoining to the caſtle, now the reſidence of the Hon. Lady Elizabeth Anſtruther.

thunder ſtorms. Fatal accidents from lightning have frequently been experienced *.

Longevity.—Many in the pariſh of Cupar have attained, if not to the utmoſt period of human life, yet to a very great longevity. It is not to be doubted, that in every place, and in every age, perſons have frequently reached a length of days far beyond the period allotted to the ordinary race of mortals. But we are diſpoſed to give too eaſy faith to the many inſtances which are publiſhed to the world, from every quarter, of perſons having attained to extreme old age, from that love of the marvellous which is natural to man, and from that fond deſire of protracting life to the utmoſt ſpan, which, in defiance of the ſober dictates of reaſon, and the frequent checks of experience, we fooliſhly and obſtinately cheriſh. Whoever will take the trouble to inquire minutely into the hiſtory of thoſe, within the circle of his own acquaintance, who have died in advanced age, and who have been reported, in every publication of the day, to have reached their hundredth, or hundred and tenth year, will find, that in truth, in almoſt every inſtance, conſiderable deductions muſt be made from the exaggerated account. Whoever attends to the numerous inſtances of longevity, collected by the late Dr Fothergill, muſt be ſenſible, that the evidences

* On the 30th of April 1735, a black-ſmith, while employed in ſhoeing a horſe before the door of his work ſhop, was ſtruck down in the ſtreet, and inſtantly expired. On the 20th of September 1787, the inhabitants were alarmed by a tremendous peal. Every perſon trembled, while he inquired after the fate of his children and his domeſtics. The melancholy tidings were inſtantly ſpread over the town, that four men had been killed in the old correction houſe, at that time uſed as a wright's ſhop. Two of the four, though ſeverely ſtunned and wounded, gradually recovered. The other two were found without any remains of life.

dences on which they are made to reſt, newſpapers and other periodical publications, are by no means entitled to the attention and belief of a ſincere inquirer after truth. Even the great Lord Verulam, when writing on this ſubject, loſes that acuteneſs, ſagacity, and ſtrength of mind, which he uſually diſplays, and deſcends to the level of the weakeſt, the moſt ſanguine and credulous, of the ſpeculating philoſophic tribe. He ſeems to give credit to the accounts recorded by Pliny, in his natural hiſtory, of 124 perſons, who, in the reign of Veſpaſian, were found in that diſtrict of Italy, lying between the Appenine mountains and the river Po, who had all lived beyond the age of 100, and many of them to their hundred and thirtieth, or hundred and fortieth year. Notwithſtanding the many amuſing hiſtories, which have been given to the public, of the vigour and feats of thoſe who are now alive in this country, and who have paſſed the hundredth year of their age, yet ſhould any one undertake to produce ſatisfying evidence, that there are *two* perſons only in the county in which he reſides, who have reached this extreme age, he would find himſelf engaged in a difficult, and probably fruitleſs, attempt *. The annexed inſtances

* In the regiſter of burials belonging to the pariſh of Cupar, the following entry is made: "Buried, 21ſt December 1757, "LADY DENBRAE, aged 107 years." It was the general belief of the town and neighbourhood, that this lady, whoſe maiden name was Fletcher, and who had been married to —— Preſton, Eſq; of Denbrae, was, at the time of her death, 106 or 107 years old. Her friends, when talking of the length of days to which ſhe had attained, never failed to boaſt, that ſhe was one of the celebrated beauties who graced the Court of the Duke of York, when he reſided in the palace of Holyrood-houſe, in the reign of his brother Charles II. Upon the moſt accurate inveſtigation, however, of every circumſtance that could be traced, relating to the age of this female, who had long ſurvived all her cotemporaries, it has been found, that ſhe had but juſt completed her 99th year.

ſtances of longevity, however, in the pariſh of Cupar, may be relied on as perfectly authentic *.

Antiquities.

* James Wemyss, Eſq; of Winthank, who was born in the beginning of 1696, died in the month of March laſt, (1793) in his 98th year. This gentleman, whoſe ſtature did not exceed the common ſize, but who was handſome and well made, poſſeſſed a very uncommon degree both of bodily and mental vigour. Through the whole of life, he never failed to riſe in the morning at an early hour; was frequently on horſe-back; was no enemy to the free circulation of the glaſs, though, upon the whole, he might juſtly be ſaid to be regular and temperate. He poſſeſſed, in an eminent degree, the politeneſs peculiar to the laſt age, and long remained a venerable ſpecimen of the antient ſchool of manners. He was the only perſon, the writer of theſe ſtatements ever knew, who retained, in extreme old age, the ſame uſe of all the mental faculties, which had been the poſſeſſion and enjoyment of youth and manhood. When he was upwards of 90, he not only regularly amuſed himſelf, ſeveral hours every day, with reading, particularly hiſtory, but could give a diſtinct account of the ſubject to which he was directing his attention. He had never, in the courſe of his long life, been confined to his bed a ſingle day by ſickneſs. And even when he began to feel the gradual approaches of age, and decays of nature, he was in a great meaſure exempted from the weakneſſes and ſufferings incidental to this mournful period. Though he was born in one century, and lived to ſee almoſt the concluſion of the next, and thus ought to have paſſed through the ſeven ages of human life marked by the Poet, yet the deſcription of the laſt ſtage, given by the bard of nature, was by no means applicable to the concluding period of his exiſtence. He never, indeed, reached the "laſt ſcene of all, that ends the "ſtrange, eventful hiſtory of man, ſecond childiſhneſs, and mere "oblivion." Attacked at laſt by the reſiſtleſs power of fever, he retired to his apartment, and, after a confinement of 4 days, yielded to the univerſal law of nature.

The venerable Sir Robert Preston, late miniſter in the firſt charge at Cupar, died in September 1791, having nearly completed the ſixty-firſt year of his miniſtry. He was firſt admitted a miniſter of the church at Arbirlot, in the county of Angus, and out-lived, during the courſe of ſeveral years, all the members

Antiquities.—The pariſh of Cupar affords little to intereſt or to gratify the antiquarian *.—Cairns of ſtones, or *tumuli*, containing the remains of human bodies, are frequent in this diſtrict,

members of the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, though they amounted to no leſs a number than 80.—Mr William Miller of Star, and Mr Alexander Melvil of Kilmaron, were born in Cupar in the courſe of the ſame year, and lately died in it, at no great diſtance of time from each other, about the age of 90. The union of the laſt of theſe two with his wife had ſubſiſted upwards of 60 years —David Brown weaver, and his wife, who both lately died, had lived in the married ſtate during the ſame uncommon length of time —There were living, about 10 years ago, 5 men in the town of Cupar, all conſiderably upwards of 90, and who all died nearly about the ſame time, viz. Walter Douglas, muſician, 96 years old; David Brugh, gardner, 95; John Lorimer, weaver, 94; James Anderſon, wright, 91; and ——— Lumiſdain, day-labourer, 92. The firſt of theſe, Walter Douglas, who died in his 97th year, was town-drummer, had ſerved the corporation in that capacity 74 years, and, at the time of his death, might perhaps have been juſtly accounted the oldeſt office-bearer in the kingdom. He was of low ſtature, but broad cheſted and well built. Through the whole of life, he could only command coarſe and ſcanty fare, and knew none of the advantages of warm and comfortable lodging. Angling was his favourite amuſement, and he continued to fiſh on the river till within a little of his death. He was of a family in the town, who had long been noted for their longevity. His brother John died nearly of the ſame age with himſelf, after having buried a ſon upwards of 72. Some of the ſame name ſtill reſide in the town, who preſerve a ſtriking likeneſs to the family, who poſſeſs the ſame robuſt appearance and vigorous frame, and who bid fair to equal the age of their fathers.

* In levelling a piece of ground, in order to form the turnpike road that leads from Cupar to the eaſt, there were lately found, in the vicinity of the Caſtle-hill, ſeveral ſtone coffins containing human ſkeletons. The coffins were adorned with the figures of warriors, rudely ſculptured, and covered with unknown characters. Engliſh and French coins, of conſiderable antiquity, have been dug up, in removing the rubbiſh from the ground where the Caſtle once ſtood.

diſtrict, ſimilar to thoſe found in many different parts of the country *.

Carſlogie Houſe.—The houſe of Carſlogie, diſtant about a mile from Cupar, on the road that leads to the weſt, is the moſt antient family ſeat in the pariſh. It had been originally intended for a place of ſecurity and ſtrength. Colonel Clephane, the preſent proprietor of Carſlogie, is the 20th of that name, who, in regular deſcent, has poſſeſſed the eſtate †. In a field adjoining to the houſe of Carſlogie, and near to the public road which leads from Cupar to the weſt, the

* One of theſe was lately opened on the heights of Middlefield, about an Engliſh mile to the north eaſt of Cupar, in which were found ſeveral urns of baked clay, incloſing the aſhes of the warriors of a diſtant age. That the urns were not Roman, appeared from the nature of the inſtruments of war, placed by the ſide of them. The heads of the battle-axes were formed of a very hard ſtone, of a white colour, neatly ſhaped, and nicely carved and poliſhed. Theſe arms muſt have been employed by a rude people, ſtrangers to the uſe of iron. Two of theſe battle-axes are in the poſſeſſion of a gentleman in Cupar. The ſpot where theſe tumuli had been formed, from the remains of ramparts that had ſurrounded it, ſeems to have been, in ſome remote period, a military ſtation of conſiderable importance; and to have been a height well adapted for that purpoſe, commanding a very extenſive proſpect to the ocean on the eaſt, and to the Ochil hills on the weſt.

† The CLEPHANES, who for many ages have been proprietors of the Caſtle and the ſurrounding grounds, in times of barbariſm, confuſion, and diſorder, often leagued with the neighbouring ancient family of the Scots of Scotſtarvet, who inhabited a ſtrong tower, (Scotſtarvet Tower), which is ſtill entire, ſituated about two Engliſh miles ſouth from Carſlogie. On the appearance of an enemy, *horns*, from the battlements of the caſtle, from which the hoſtile force was firſt deſcried, announced its approach, and the quarter from whence it was advancing; and both families, with their dependents, were inſtantly under

the ſtately and venerable remains of an aſh, which for ſeveral centuries has retained the name of the *Jug Tree**, ſtrikes the eye of the traveller.

Garlie Bank.—The Garlie Bank, the property of James Wemyſs, Eſq; of Winthank, ſituated to the ſouth of Cupar, and the higheſt ground in the pariſh, has been rendered famous by the treaty ſigned there, on the 13th of June 1559, betwixt the Duke of Chatelrault, and Monſieur D'Oyſel, commanding the army of the Queen regent, and the Earl of Argyle,

under arms. There is a charter belonging to the family, bearing that "DUNCANUS, *Comes de* FYFE, *confirmat* JOHANNI de "CLEPHANE, *et haeredibus, totam terram de Cleſclogie, et de Eri-*"*therrogewale*, (Uthrogyle), *adeo libere, ſicut* DAVID de CLE-"PHANE, *pater ejus, et predeceſſores, eas tenuerunt. Teſtibus Domi-*"*no Alexandro de Abernethy, Michael et David de Vemys, Hugone* "*de Lochor, Johanne de Ramſey, cum multis aliis.*" From the aera at which theſe witneſſes lived, the charter muſt have been given, at the lateſt, in the beginning of the reign of Robert I. The family have been in poſſeſſion, time immemorial, of a hand made in exact imitation of that of a man, and curiouſly formed of ſteel. This is ſaid to have been conferred by one of the kings of Scotland, along with other more valuable marks of his favour, on the Laird of Carſlogie, who had loſt his hand in the ſervice of his country.

* The iron jugs, in which the offenders on the domains of Carſlogie ſuffered the puniſhments, to which they were doomed by their lords, fell from the hollow body of this tree, in which they had been infixed, only about 3 years ago. During the courſe of the greater part of this century, ſuſpended in the view of every paſſenger, they ſilently, but impreſſively, reminded him, to rejoice that he lived in a happy and meliorated period, in which the oppreſſive juriſdictions, and capricious and cruel puniſhments, to which his fathers were long ſubjected, are entirely annihilated, and mild, equal, and powerful law, hath extended its protecting arm to the meaneſt individual, in the moſt diſtant cot, in this free and favoured land.

Argyll, and Lord James, prior of St. Andrews, leading the forces of the Congregation *.

Mote-hill, Temple Tenements, &c.—A mound of earth rising conſiderably above the adjoining grounds, extends to a great length on the north ſide of Cupar, called *the Mote*, or, as ſome write it, the *Moat-hill* †.—The Knights Templars

* The hoſtile camps were only ſeparated by the river Eden. The morning of the day had been employed by the generals of both armies, in making the neceſſary arrangements for a deciſive engagement. The advanced parties were now about to cloſe, when the Duke ſent a meſſenger to the Lords of the Congregation, to demand a conference. They, equally unwilling to riſk a general action, complied with the requeſt. The principal men in both armies repaired to the higheſt eminence of the Garlie Bank, a ſpot known by the name of the *Howlet*, or *Owl Hill*, and which commanded a full view of the whole plain wherein the troops were now drawn up in order of battle, and there adjuſted and ſigned that truce, in conſequence of which the forces of the Queen retired to Falkland, from whence they had that morning advanced; and thoſe of the Congregation to Cupar, St. Andrew's, and Dundee. The violent reformer, Knox, having completely deſtroyed the religious houſes at Perth, Cupar, Crail, and St. Andrew's, had repaired to the camp at Cupar Muir, and by his rude, but impreſſive eloquence, inflamed the zeal of the Lords of the Congregation. He details, in his Hiſtory, (pages 141. 142.), the events of the morning of the 13th of June, with all the minuteneſs and ardour natural to one who had ſo deep an intereſt in every important public tranſaction, and who had ſtaked his reputation and his fortunes on the ſucceſs of Argyll, and the party who adhered to him.

† They who uſe the latter orthography contend, that this rampart is formed of artificial earth; that it originally extended as far as the Caſtle, and was conſtructed to defend the town from any ſudden attack from the north, as the river, in ſome meaſure, ſecured it on the ſouth. There is no doubt, however, that it ought to be ſtiled the *Mote Hill*, as it was probably the place where, in early times, the Juſticiary of Fife held his courts, and publiſhed his enactments, for the regulation of

plars had conſiderable poſſeſſions in land adjoining to Cupar on the ſouth. There are ſtill two houſes, in different parts of the town, called *Temple Tenements*, which belonged to that order. They now hold of the Earl of Hadington, and enjoy all the privileges and exemptions uſually attached to the poſſeſſions of the Templars.—The only religious houſe which exiſted in Cupar, at the time of the Reformation, was a convent of Dominican, or Black Friars. It was ſituated at the foot of the Caſtlehill, and connected with the Caſtle *. A conſiderable part of the chapel, built of cut free-ſtone, ſtill ſtands.

Playfield,

the country. The Latin name, by which this hill is ſometimes mentioned, muſt decide the controverſy, if with any plauſibility it could ever have been maintained;—" *Mons placiti*," which may be tranſlated " *Statute-hill*."

* No part of the Caſtle now remains. Though long the reſidence of the Earls of Fife, it had at laſt become a national fortreſs. It had been a place of conſiderable ſtrength. Buchanan ſtiles it *Arx munitiſſima Cuprenſis*. The Engliſh were in poſſeſſion of it anno 1297. In the courſe of that year, it was recovered by the bravery of Wallace. [*Buchan. Hiſt. book* viii.] —Robert Wiſhart, biſhop of Glaſgow, who had joined the party of Bruce, after the murder of Comyn, held the Caſtle of Cupar againſt the Engliſh. He was made priſoner there, arrayed in armour, and, in that uncanonical garb, was conducted to the Caſtle of Nottingham. This happened anno 1306. [*Dalrymple's Annals*, vol. II.]—Edward Baliol, aſſiſted by Edward III. of England, reviving his pretenſions to the crown of Scotland, defeated the Scotch at Halidon, *anno Dom.* 1333, during the minority of David II.; upon which the greater part of the kingdom ſubmitted to him. Upon this occaſion, we find the Caſtle of Cupar entruſted to William Bullock, an eccleſiaſtic of eminent abilities, chamberlain of Scotland, in whom Baliol placed his chief confidence. [*Dalrymple.*]—The king was again put in poſſeſſion of this fortreſs, by the ſucceſsful valour of William Douglas, and ſoon after he cauſed it to be entirely demoliſhed.

Playfield, &c.—During the dark ages, theatrical repreſentations, called *myſteries* or *moralities*, (the perſons allegorical, ſuch as Sin, Death, &c.) were frequently exhibited. The place, where theſe entertainments were preſented, was called *the Playfield* *. "Few towns of note," ſays Arnot, in his Hiſtory

* The pieces preſented in the Playfield of Cupar, however, ſeem not, at the aera of the Reformation, to have had any connection with religious ſubjects, but were calculated to intereſt and amuſe, by exhibiting every variety of character, and every ſpecies of humour. To illuſtrate the manners which prevailed in Scotland in the 16th century, and as a ſpecimen of the dramatic compoſitions which pleaſed our fathers, Arnot, in the appendix to his Hiſtory, gives a curious excerpt from a manuſcript comedy, which bears to have been exhibited in the Playfield at Cupar, and which had been in the poſſeſſion of the late Mr Garrick.

That part of the excerpt only, which relates to the place where the play was preſented, is here tranſcribed.

"Here begins the proclamation of the play, made by DAVID LINDSAY of the Mount ‡, Knight, in the Playfield, in the month of , the year of God 1555 years."

"Proclamation made in Cupar of Fife.

"Our purpoſe is on the ſeventh day of June,
"If weather ſerve, and we have reſt and peace,
"We ſhall be ſeen into our playing place,
"In good array about the hour of ſeven.
"Of thriftineſs that day, I pray you ceaſe;
"But ordain us good drink againſt allevin §.
"Fail not to be upon the Caſtlehill,
"Beſide the place where we purpoſe to play;
"With gude ſtark wine your flaggons ſee you fill,
"And had yourſelves the merrieſt that you may.

"*Cottager.* I ſhall be there, with God's grace,
"Tho' there were never ſo great a price,
"And foremoſt in the fair:
"And drink a quart in Cupar town,
"With my goſſip John Williamſon,
"Tho' all the nolt ſhould rair," &c.

‡ *The* MOUNT, *formerly the eſtate of Sir* DAVID LINDSAY, *lies in the immediate neighbourhood of Cupar.*

§ *i. e. Eleven.*

Hiſtory of Edinburgh, " were without one. That of " Edinburgh was at the Greenſide-well; that of Cupar in " Fife was on their *Caſtle-hill*."

Agriculture.—Fife, though poſſeſſing natural advantages ſuperior to thoſe enjoyed by many neighbouring counties, was, till of late, far behind them in the important knowledge, and valuable improvements of agriculture.—The herring fiſhery, the making of ſalt, the burning of lime, and working of coal mines, circumſtances which might naturally have been expected to accelerate a meliorated huſbandry, contributed long to retard its progreſs. Occupied entirely in the purſuit of theſe objects, the great landholders in Fife were unhappily diverted from paying that attention to the ſurface of the ground, which would not have failed to have made a more certain and valuable return for the expence which they often incurred, and the activity and induſtry they exerted. During the laſt 15 years, however, in many diſtricts of the county, the landholders and farmers have adopted and proſecuted every plan of modern improvement, with a degree of eagerneſs, perſeverance, and ſucceſs, not ſurpaſſed in any corner of the iſland. That part of the county, in particular, which lies between the Eden and the Tay, naturally fertile, has been ſubjected to a new and better mode of cultivation. The farmers in this diſtrict, with a liberality which does them honour, readily acknowledge, that they are indebted for many eſſential improvements, which are now general among them, to the example of thoſe who have come to ſettle in Fife, from the oppoſite country of the Carſe of Gowrie.

Improvements.—The grounds adjoining to Cupar, on the north,

north, having lately paſſed into the hands of new maſters, who have ſpared no expence to drain and incloſe them, who have enriched them with abundance of manure, and employed them in a proper rotation of crops, have entirely changed their appearance, and now afford a pleaſing proof of the power of cultivation. From the improvements which have been mentioned, the erection of handſome houſes, by the different proprietors, and the plantations which have been formed, the whole preſents to the eye the appearance of what the French call *ferme ornè*.

Hills, Plantations, &c.—The country around Cupar cannot be ſaid to be level, as the grounds, in general, riſe to a conſiderable height on both ſides of the Eden; yet there are no hills in the pariſh, except thoſe of Wemyſs-hall and Kilmaron, both of which are cultivated to the top. There are extenſive and thriving plantations on Cupar Muir, but no trees of age or ſize, except at Carſlogie and Tarvet, the family ſeat of Patrick Rigg, Eſq; of Morton. At the laſt mentioned place, the pleaſure grounds, laid out with taſte, around the ſpacious and elegant houſe lately built there, derive much of their beauty from the appearance of the antient and lofty trees ſcattered through the lawn.

Soil.—The ſoil, on the north ſide of the Eden, is in general of an excellent quality, black and deep, on a dry whinſtone bottom. The ſoil on the ſouth ſide of Eden, as ſoon as you leave the valley, is cold and thin, and, in general, on a bottom of till.

Farms, Crops, &c.—The farms contain from 100 to 300 acres. The rotation of crops, on the beſt black land, is the following:

following: 1. Clover and rye-graſs; 2. Wheat with dung; 3. Barley; 4. Drilled beans, with dung; 5. Wheat; 6. Turnips or potatoes; 7. Barley; 8. Oats, with graſs ſeeds. Thus, in the courſe of the 8 years, we have one eighth clover, two eighths wheat, two eighths barley, one eighth drilled beans, one eighth turnips or potatoes, and one eighth oats. —The following rotation is obſerved in clay land: 1. Summer fallow; 2. Wheat, with lime and dung; 3. Peaſe and beans; 4. Barley, with graſs ſeeds; 5. Hay, cut green; 6. Wheat, with dung; 7. Barley; 8. Oats; 9. Summer fallow, &c.—The rotation followed in grounds chiefly employed for paſture: 1. Oats; 2. Barley or flax; 3 Oats, with graſs ſeeds; 4. Hay; 5. Paſture.—Artificial graſſes, chiefly rye-graſs, and red and white clover, are cultivated to a great extent, and with abundant ſucceſs. Turnips have only been introduced of late years, and as yet a ſmaller number of acres, in proportion to the extent of the pariſh, are occupied with this crop, than in the eaſtern parts of the county.—The ſeed time extends from the middle of March to the middle of May. Harveſt begins in the middle of Auguſt, and commonly ends about the middle of October.

Potatoes.—No ſpecies of culture has ſo amply rewarded the labour beſtowed on it, by the inhabitants of Cupar, as that of the potatoe. They have good reaſon to join with thoſe who affirm, that the potatoe is the richeſt preſent, which the new world ever made to Europe. The produce of an acre is from 40 to 100 bolls. The average crop, on good ground, 60 bolls. The diſeaſe peculiar to this plant, known by the name of *the curl*, has not yet materially affected the crops in the neighbourhood of Cupar. The kinds commonly planted are, for the table, the *long kidney*, and the *London dropper*. For cattle, a large red potatoe, known by the name of *the Tartar*,

Tartar, and extremely prolific. The moſt ſucceſsful farmers plant them in drills, at the diſtance of 30 inches from each other. They clean them chiefly with drill harrows and ploughs.

Horſes, Black Cattle, &c. *—Horſes are principally employed in every ſpecies of labour. The breed has been greatly improved within the laſt 15 years. The farmer ſeldom yokes a pair in his plough, or in his cart, for which he could not draw, in the market, 50 l. This diſtrict of the country, and indeed the whole of what is commonly called *the Laigh of Fife*, has long been famous for its excellent breed of black cattle †.—The inſtruments of huſbandry, uſed in the pariſh, are all of the neweſt and beſt conſtruction; and the farmers begin to build, at their own expence, mills for threſhing out their corns.

Incloſures, Minerals, &c.—There is not an acre of common or waſte ground in the pariſh, the whole being either planted or employed in tillage, except one large field, the property of the town, kept for the purpoſe of paſturing the cows belonging to the inhabitants. A conſiderable proportion of the grounds are incloſed. As there are inexhauſtible quarries

* For the number of cattle, &c. ſee the Table. About 20 years ago, there were 12 or 13 flocks of ſheep in the pariſh; for ſeveral years paſt, there has not been one.

† James Wemyss, Eſq; of Winthank, a few years ago, ſold, to an Engliſh drover, two bullocks, bred on his farm of Wemyſs-hall, among the largeſt which the county of Fife has ever produced. They were exhibited on account of their ſtupendous ſize, during many months, in different parts of England, to the eye of public curioſity; and when killed at Smithfield, were found to be among the heavieſt ever brought to that market.

quarries of excellent free-stone in the parish, the inclosures are chiefly formed by stone dykes, the expence of building which is from 30s. to 40s. per rood of 36 yards.

Rents and Mills.—The grounds, to the distance of an English mile round the town, let at an average of 3 l. per acre. Fields under sown grass, let for 6 l. per acre, sometimes as high as 8 l. There are no less than 11,000 bolls of grain annually made into meal, at the 4 different stations in the parish, where mills are erected.

Roads, &c.—Turnpike roads began to be formed in the parish of Cupar, only within these few years. The measure met, at first, with almost universal opposition from the adjacent country. The farmers, however, have already entirely changed their opinion with respect to turnpikes; they pay chearfully at the toll-bars, and seem, in general, to be convinced of the vast importance and utility of the roads that have been formed. The turnpikes, in the neighbourhood of Cupar, are made on an excellent plan, are formed of the best materials, and contain a hard and soft, or summer and winter road.—The cross roads in the parish are, in general, exceedingly ill kept; nor is it likely, that by the statute labour, as at present applied, they will ever be in better order. As improvements of every kind have advanced so rapidly, during the last 7 years, it must appear an unaccountable defect, that so very common, and so very useful a machine, as that of a *still-yard* for weighing hay, coals, &c. has never yet been erected in the town of Cupar, nor on any of the roads leading to it.

Wages and Prices of Provisions.—A labourer earns per day, in summer, from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. In winter, from 10 d. to 1 s.

The

The prices of provisions vary little, in the countries adjoining to Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, &c. The vicinity of these great towns did not contribute, in any great degree, to raise the price of provisions, till within the last 30 years. An increased population, and new modes of life, have of late occasioned an immense additional consumption of fish, poultry, &c.—In the Cupar market, beef, mutton, pork, and veal, sell at an average at 4 d. per lib. Dutch weight; hens, 13 d. each; geese, 3 s. each; rabbits, 6 d. per pair; pigeons, 3 d. per pair; butter, 9 d. per lib.; best cheese, 5 d.; coarse cheese, 3 d. tron weight; oat meal, 13 d. per peck; potatoes, 4½ d.; eggs, 4 d. per dozen; salmon, 5 d. per lib.—Though the price of provisions is thus high, and though there has been also a great rise on the necessary articles of leather, soap, salt, candles, &c. yet the labourer at present is better lodged, better fed and clothed, and can give a more decent education to his children, than his father, who paid only 6 d. or 7 d. for a peck of oat meal; 1½ d. for beef and mutton per lib.; who bought eggs at 1 d. per dozen; butter at 5 d. per lib.; cheese at 1½ d.; and haddocks in abundance at 1 d. or 2 d. per dozen. This improvement in the situation of the labourer is owing chiefly to these causes: 1*st*, The proportion of the price of his own labour, and that of his family, to the price of provisions, is more in his favour than at any preceding period. 2*dly*, The introduction of the potatoe, which has been long in general cultivation, affords a vast additional supply of food to the labourer and his family, and enables him, at the same time, to rear pigs and poultry. 3*dly*, He can depend on being employed during the course of the whole year, an advantage which his father, who received only 5 d. or 6 d. for his day's work, could not always command.

Character of the People.—The labourer and the mechanic are in general able, by the exertions of their industry, to make a decent livelihood for themselves and their families; they poſſeſs more foreſight and economy than thoſe of the ſame rank in the neighbouring kingdom. They cheriſh the laudable pride of not being indebted for their ſupport to the parochial fund, or to the humanity of the charitable. They are in general contented with their humble ſituation; friends to that government which extends protection and ſecurity to their dwellings; and have had the good ſenſe to reſiſt and to deſpiſe the attempts of thoſe, who have endeavoured to make them believe, in oppoſition to their own happy experience, that they are burdened, oppreſſed, and wretched.

Manners.—The manners of the inhabitants of Cupar, of better rank, are, in general, correct and polite. Gentlemen of the military profeſſion, having ſpent their youth in the ſervice of their country, frequently fix their reſidence here, in the decline of life. Formed in that ſchool, which has long been diſtinguiſhed by the eaſe and politeneſs which it communicates, they have contributed to diffuſe an elegance of manners. To this circumſtance alſo, perhaps, it is in ſome meaſure owing, that families reſiding in Cupar, and enjoying only a limited and narrow income, make a decent and reſpectable appearance; and are enabled, by habits of attention and economy, frequently to exerciſe an elegant hoſpitality.

STATIS-

Statistical Table of the Parish of Cupar of Fife.

Conditions and Professions, &c.

Principal residing heritors *	7	Masons - -	21
Ditto non-residing †	9	Wrights - -	48
Attorneys or writers	12	Smiths - -	24
Clerks and apprentices to ditto	20	Shoemakers - -	35
Medical practitioners	5	Glovers - -	5
Clergymen -	3	Hatters - -	2
School-masters -	3	Barbers - -	7
Private teachers -	4	Saddlers - -	5
Mantua-makers -	10	Candle-makers -	2
Milliners - -	6	Linen-merchants -	6
House painters -	3	Shop-keepers -	31
Stationers - -	2	Midwives - -	4
Bakers and servants	19	Watch-makers -	3
Butchers and ditto	16	Excise officers -	3
Brewers - -	5	Carriers - -	4
Tailors - -	29	Messengers - -	3
Dyers -	5	Footmen - -	20

Valued

* Viz. Patrick Rigg, Esq; of Morton, James Wemyss, Esq; of Wemyshall, Henry Stark, Esq; of Teasses, Charles Bell, Esq; of Pitbladdo, William Robertson, Esq; of Middlefield, Peter Walker, Esq; of Kingask, and John Swan, Esq; of Prestonhall.

† Viz. the Earl of Crawfurd, Colonel Ciephane of Carslogie, James Robertson, Esq; of Balgarvie, Oliver Gourlay, Esq; of Kilmoran, George M'Gill, Esq; of Kemback, Charles Maitland, Esq; of Rankeillor, Henry West, Esq; of Foxtown, Miss Bell of Hillton, and Alexander Low, Esq; of Pittencrieff.

Valued rent in Scotch money -	L. 5331
Bank offices - -	2
Tan-works - - - -	2
Weaver's looms - -	223
Licensed ale-houses - - -	43
Ditto in the county of Fife -	784

CATTLE, &c.

Horses - -	338	Coach -	1
Cows and young cattle	722	Chaises - -	8
Ploughs - -	68	Pack of fox hounds	1
Carts - -	137	Ditto of harriers -	1

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF LILLIES-LEAF.

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH—PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK—SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE).

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM CAMPBELL, *Miniſter.*

Name, Extent, and River.

THE origin of the name is uncertain. It has been wrote *Lillies-life* and *Lillies-cliffe*.—It riſes from the eaſt, where the breadth is only half a mile, with a gradual aſcent to the weſt, where it is a mile broad from north to ſouth. It is broadeſt at the middle, being, upon a medium, 2 miles and one ſixth. It is five miles and a half in length, and contains between 7000 and 8000 acres.—At the head of the pariſh, the river *Ale*, remarkable for the quality of its trouts, divides it for a mile, and then becomes the boundary to the north and eaſt.

Soil, Farm Rents, Cultivation, and Produce —The ſoil varies, being partly clay, rich loam, and partly gravelly light ſand. The crofts adjoining the village let at 35 s. and 40 s. per acre.—The rents in general, for ſeveral years paſt, have been riſing, and are ſtill on the increaſe, owing, in a great meaſure, to the improvements and mode of management. The outfield ground is light, part dry, and part ſwampy. The Engliſh plough, after the model of Small of Roſline,

is

is used in general. Farmers are not so fond of sowing wheat as formerly. The culture of turnips is judged of more consequence, and keeps the land in good heart. A rotation of crops, as follows, has been adopted; fallow, turnips, oats, pease, barley with grass seeds, hay, pasture for 2 years, oats, and then a fallow. Upon lighter ground, 1*st*, crop oats; 2*dly*, Turnips, pease, or potatoes; 3*dly*, Barley; 4*thly*, Hay; then oats, &c. as before. After this rotation, there is no need of a fallow.—The distance from lime is 25 miles. —There is a marl moss at the east end of the parish, and another at the west.—The manure in both is of an excellent quality. Its effects are more discernible on grass, than on land in tillage. There are other two mosses in the neighbourhood, at 4 miles distance, from which considerable quantities of marl are brought. The old maxim, "The "fodder is best which carries corn on its top," is entirely exploded. Sir John Buchanan Riddell, proprietor of a great part of the parish, and who proposes staying here, at least occasionally, is rapidly carrying on improvements. He has marl on his estate, yet the expence must be considerable. It is not to be doubted but they will turn out to good account, and his plantations add to the beauty of the place. Swift observes, "whoever could make two ears of corn, or two "blades of grass to grow, upon a spot of ground where only "one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and "do more essential service to his country, than the whole "race of politicians put together *." Oxen are not used in labouring

* In place of *plowing matches*, which sometimes are attended with a considerable degree of confusion, and some disagreeable consequences among the servants, might it not answer better, if, for instance, the proprietors of ten ploughs were to collect 50s. the land to be marled before sowing, and the whole work during the season reviewed; a premium of 1 l. 5 s. to the best upon the whole,

labouring as formerly. The muir land is kept for paſturage.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—Proviſions are high priced. Butcher meat is often ſold at a dearer rate than in Edinburgh; butter at 10 d. per lib. (24 oz.) a pair of fowls at 1 s. 8 d. formerly only 1 s.; cheeſe 6 d. per lib. formerly 3½ d.; and other articles in proportion. The manner of living is greatly changed, being much more expenſive; yet the farmers are in better circumſtances, and much better lodged than they were 30 years ago. The wages of a man ſervant are from 6 l. to 8 l. Sterling; and thoſe of a maid ſervant from 3 l. 4 s. to 3 l. 15 s. *per annum*. A day-labourer gets 10 d. with his meat, or 1 s. 4 d. without it; a taylor, 8 d. with, or 1 s. without it; a wright, 1 s. 6 d.; a maſon, 1 s. 6 d.; a man for weeding potatoes or turnips, 8 d. In harveſt, a man gets 1 s. 4 d. a woman, 1 s. 2 d. For 20 years paſt, work of every kind has riſen in expence one third. It is more than probable the riſe will ſtill be higher. The ſchool fees alone are moderate. Some farmers have their corns threſhed for 4 d. per boll, with maintainance; a ditch 3 feet deep dug, with the thorns ſet, at 8 d. per rood, and a double ditch at 1 s. 4 d.

Roads, Fuel, Diſeaſes, &c.—The roads are in a bad ſtate, but will be put in good repair, as money for the ſtatute labour is to be exacted, as far as law allows. One great inconvenience the people labours under, is the diſtance from coals, which is not leſs than 30 and 32 miles. Some peats may be procured here, but ſo high priced, that coals at 15 s. the 12 cwt. whole, 15 s. to the ſecond, and 10 s. to the third. The ploughmen would thus be attentive from firſt to laſt, and juſtice would be done the maſter.

cwt. are by far the cheapeſt. In the article of firing, the inhabitants muſt be at a greater expence than any pariſh in the ſouth of Scotland. Agues, 20 years ago, were very frequent in the village, the road being almoſt impaſſable on account of putrid ſtagnated water. This being removed, and the road formed and finiſhed, aguiſh complaints have almoſt totally diſappeared. It is unfortunate that this corner ſhould be ſo bare of trees, there being plenty of ground well adapted for large plantations, particularly of firs. The weedings would be uſeful as fuel; the body of the tree profitable, in a pariſh ſo remote from the ſea coaſt; and the ground enriched by the leaves.

Population.—It is generally believed, that the population is greatly diminiſhed, there being veſtiges of conſiderable villages, where now there ſtand only one or two houſes. Since the year 1760, 9 farms have been added to ſuch as lay adjacent; and though the rent of each was not very conſiderable, yet the honeſt tackſman cleared with the proprietor, and brought up and educated his children, who proved uſeful members of ſociety. But whatever diminution may have lately taken place in the population of the pariſh, from theſe and ſimilar cauſes, it is certain, that there has been an increaſe upon the whole, within theſe 40 years, as appears from the following comparative ſtatement:

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF LILLIES-LEAF.

Number of males in the pariſh, at Whitſunday 1793	342
Ditto of females - - - -	288
Total number of ſouls	630
Ditto in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter	521
Increaſe	109
	Families

Families in the village	87
Ditto in the country	59
Total	146

Ages.

Persons under 10 years of age	148
—— between 10 and 20	103
—— —— 20 and 30	135
—— —— 30 and 60	184
—— —— 60 and 80 *	60
	630

Conditions, Professions, &c.

Proprietors †	17	Coopers	2
Miniſter	1	Tailors	7
Seceders of various denominations	35	Bakers	2
		Shop-keepers	3
Weavers	14	Licenſed ale-houſes ‡	4
Wrights	13	School-maſter	1
Maſons	9	Scholars in winter, about	50
Smiths	3	Ditto in ſummer	36
Annual average of births	11		
—— —— marriages	3		
—— —— burials	6		

Rent, Stock, &c.

Valued rent in Scotch money			L. 8265
Real rent in Sterling, about			3000
Horſes	175	Swine	29
Black cattle	580	Ploughs	45
Sheep	1394		

Manufactures.

* A few of this claſs are bordering upon 80.

† Beſides theſe heritors, there is a conſiderable number of feuers.

‡ Although this village is a thorough-fare, between the weſtern and eaſtern parts of the country, there is no occaſion for ſo many ale and ſpirit houſes.

Manufactures.—Many packs of lint, till of late, were ſent from Darlington, by Newcaſtle, to be ſpun. The yarn was returned by the ſame conveyance. At preſent the ſpinners are employed by the manufacturers in Hawick. The quantity of cloth woven for ſale is not great.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—This pariſh belonged formerly to the dioceſe of the Archbiſhop of Glaſgow, who built the kirk betwixt the 9th and 10th century. There is paid to that univerſity, the yearly ſum of 5 l. 7 s. 6½ d. called the *Biſhop's Coat.* The kirk was rebuilt in the year 1771, and is commodious and well ſeated. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron. The ſtipend, at the converſion of grain, is about 1000 l. Scotch, and 50 l. ditto for communion elements. The manſe was built in the year 1762, very ſuperficially and confined. An addition was made to it 15 years after, and the houſe is this ſeaſon to get ſome neceſſary repairs. The glebe is of a tolerable good quality, meaſuring near 11 Engliſh acres*.

School.—The heritors, a few years ago, voluntarily raiſed the ſchool-maſter's ſalary from 100 merks to 100 l. Scotch. They are contracting for a new ſchool and ſchool-houſe. His emoluments, as teacher, precentor, and ſeſſion-clerk, do not exceed 17 l. *per annum.*

Poor.—The poor are ſupported by the intereſt of 105 l. Sterling ſunk money, and an aſſeſſment on the land, the one half paid by the proprietor, and the other half by the tenant. The weekly collections ſupply ſuch as occaſionally need

* That it might be kept entire, Sir Walter Riddell, in the year 1643, diſponed half an acre of land to the then miniſter, and his ſucceſſors in office, upon which the manſe, &c. are built.

need aſſiſtance. When a perſon is admitted a pauper, a bond is ſigned, conveying a right to the heritors of what effects they have. This prevents impoſition. If in value the effects exceed the expenditure, the ſurplus is given to the neareſt relations of the deceaſed.

Antiquities *.—In this pariſh lies the ſeat of the ancient family

* Upon incloſing the grounds of Bewliehill, the workmen came to looſe earth, ſoft and black, and found a great number of human bones, ſeemingly burnt to a certain degree. The ſpace was upwards of 20 feet diameter, being of a circular form, and ſeems to have been an outpoſt of a Roman camp, the veſtiges of which are to be ſeen in a neighbouring pariſh, at 3 miles diſtance. The rage of conqueſt knows no bounds, but the Almighty brings good out of evil; for, by the invaſion of the Romans, and the ſucceſs attending their arms, Providence paved the way for publiſhing and introducing Chriſtianity into this iſland. Military weapons have been found, and ſpears ſharp on both ſides; large quantities of human bones, ſome with ribs adhering to the back bone; heads, in ſome the teeth almoſt freſh. One body was pretty entire; contiguous to it were the remains of a horſe. Frequent ſkirmiſhes had occurred in that corner of the pariſh, with the ſoldiers of Charles II. A numerous party of Preſbyterians, who were marching to join their brethren at Bothwell Bridge, being attacked by ſome troops of dragoons, fled to Bewlie Moſs for refuge; unable to extricate themſelves, many periſhed in the mud. When the old church of Lillies-Leaf was taken down, in 1771, there was found, below one of the ſeats, a coffin containing ſeveral human heads. We may ſuppoſe that they had been cut off by friends, that they might not be fixed upon the ports of any of the neighbouring boroughs, as it was not poſſible to drag out the bodies without being diſcovered. What a bleſſed toleration do we now live under? And if the conſtitution under which we live, in the courſe of time, needs repairs, tender and delicate ſhould the hand be that touches it. Our fathers told us of frequent meetings in Lillies-Leaf muir, for the worſhip of God. The devout aſſembled at the hazard of their lives; the place they choſe was retired; and one of their number was placed on a riſing ground, to give the alarm on the appearance of danger.—Alexander Home,

family of RIDDEL, of that ilk, one of the moſt ancient, if not the very oldeſt in Scotland *.

Character and Manners.—The people in general, a very few excepted †, are ſober and attentive to buſineſs, there being plenty of work for ſuch as chuſe not to be idle, or half employed. They are regular in attending the ordinances of religion, and many have made no ſmall degree of improvement in Chriſtian knowledge. They adhere ſtrictly to the ſtandards

HOME, great-grand-father of the wife of the preſent miniſter, a man eminent for his piety, and ſimplicity of manners, came from the Merſe to join with his ſuffering brethren in Divine ſervice. Under the influence of that principle which "*think-*"*eth no evil*," he informed a gentleman, on his returning home, where he had been, who gave information to the ſervants of government, whereupon he was apprehended, condemned, and hanged at the Croſs of Edinburgh.

* Tradition ſays, this family fixed itſelf betwixt the ſeventh and eighth century. A late well informed and elegant hiſtorian was of this opinion. As poſitive proofs, Walter Riddell of Riddell married Violet Douglas in 936. About and after that period, grants of land were made by the kings of Scotland, and by ſome of the Popes, particularly by Pope Alexander II. A place of worſhip was erected near the houſe of Riddell, which had a burying ground, called *Chapel Park*. When in tillage, human bones occaſionally have been plowed up. This burying place was transferred to the preſent church-yard. Upon the outſide of Riddell ayle, there is inſcribed H. R. 1110.

† Previous to the rupture with America, a woman guilty of child-murder petitioned for baniſhment, which was granted. She denied to the father her being with child, and would not hearken to his propoſals for marriage; yet, ſo violent was his attachment to this monſter of depravity, that he accompanied her to America, in the hope ſhe would relent, and at laſt give him her hand.—A well diſpoſed woman, upwards of 70 years of age, at times ſubject to religious melancholy, aſked of a neighbour a good book to read; *Ambroſe's War with Devils* was put into her hands, the reading of which entirely deranged her mind, and led her to commit the fatal act of ſuicide.

ſtandards of the Church of Scotland, and are well acquainted with her doctrines. They are generally ſtrangers to the neglect of family worſhip; and wiſh to give their children a decent education. The ſchool fees, for the children of ſuch as are not in good circumſtances, are paid from the weekly collections. The Seceders of different denominations are obliging in their manners; far from a narrow contracted ſpirit, no clergyman could wiſh for better neighbours.—There are two political ſocieties a few miles diſtant, who call themſelves the *Friends of the People*; but, though they are anxious to add to their numbers, not a ſingle perſon in this pariſh has joined them.—The dreſs both of the men and the women has undergone a moſt ſurpriſing change, within theſe 40 years. Thirty-two years ago, there were only 7 *hats* in the church, but at preſent there are not as many *bonnets*.

NUM-

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF EDLESTOWN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES.—SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDALE).

By the Rev. Mr PATRICK ROBINSON, *Miniſter.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE village of EDLESTOWN, from which this pariſh takes its name, is ſituated 17 miles ſouth from Edinburgh, and 4 miles N. from Peebles, on the poſt road from Edinburgh.—The length of the pariſh, from N. to S. is 10 miles, and its greateſt breadth, from E. to W. 7 miles.

Hill, Proſpect, Lake, River, &c.—DUNDROIGH, or *Druid's Hill*, which is ſituated two miles eaſt from the church, is 2100 feet above the level of the ſea, from which, in a clear day, can be ſeen the Cheviot Hills, with part of Tiviotdale, Annandale, Clydeſdale, Perthſhire, Fifeſhire, the Frith of Forth, the city of Edinburgh, and the counties of Eaſt, Weſt, and Mid Lothians.—There is a lake about 2 miles to the N. E. of the village of Edleſtown, nearly of a circular form, and about 2 miles in circumference. The only ſpecies of fiſh which it contains, are pikes and eels. This lake gives riſe to the water of South Eſk, which empties itſelf into the ſea at Muſſelburgh. Edleſtown Water, which paſſes this village, and runs into the river Tweed at Peebles, takes its riſe from various

various ſprings on the north and north-weſt boundaries of the pariſh, and at Cowey's Linn has a fall of 35 feet. There are no diſeaſes peculiar to this pariſh. The ague is not known in it. In the year 1783, the poor were liberally ſupplied; and the inhabitants of the pariſh, during that year, were more free from ſickneſs than uſual.

Surface, Cultivation, Produce, Exports, &c.—Though the greateſt part of the pariſh conſiſts of hill ground, and is devoted to the paſturage of ſheep and black cattle, yet every ſtore farm, one excepted, and on which a ſhepherd only reſides, contains as much arable land as occupies from one to three ploughs.—The crops conſiſt of beans, ſown graſs, oats, peaſe, potatoes, and turnips. The culture of turnips and ſown graſs hay, becomes every year more extenſive; and as it is found profitable to the farmer, as well as ornamental to the country, there is little doubt that it will ſoon be general. —The produce, after ſupplying the demands of the pariſh, enables the farmer to export annually from 1100 to 1200 bolls of bear; and their exports of oats and peaſe, taken together, may amount nearly to the ſame number of bolls. The groſs rent of the pariſh is doubled within the laſt 20 years. All the tenants are in a thriving ſtate, and many of them are opulent.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—The neareſt market for proviſions is Peebles, which is well ſupplied with meat of all kinds, the prices of which are nearly the ſame as at Edinburgh. The wages of ſervants and labourers have increaſed lately, and have been nearly doubled within the laſt 20 years, which is owing in a great meaſure, to the decreaſed population, not only of this pariſh, but generally throughout the county of Tweeddale. A good ploughman receives 8 gui-

neas

neas *per annum*, with victuals. If married, he has also a house and garden, with as much land as is sufficient for sowing two pecks of bear, two pecks of potatoes, and a lippy of lintseed. The wages of maid servants are, in summer, from 1 l. 15 s. to 2 l. 10 s. Sterling, and, in winter, from 1 l. 5 s. to 1 l. 15 s. Sterling. Day-labourers receive from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d. without victuals; and carpenters, masons, tailors, and weavers, have lately increased their wages about one third.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this parish has varied at different times, but has greatly decreased of late, as will appear from inspecting the following table; although there is a small increase upon the whole, within these 40 years.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF EDLESTOWN.

Number of souls, in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster	679	
Ditto in 1775	810	Increase 131
Ditto in 1793	710	Decrease 100
Total Increase in 38 years		31

Ages and Sexes	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
Persons under 10 years of age	57	74	131
——— between 10 and 20	84	62	146
——— 20 and 30	54	69	123
——— 30 and 40	46	39	85
——— ——— 40 and 50	36	28	64
——— ——— 50 and 60	35	26	61
——— ——— 60 and 70	32	27	59
——— ——— 70 and 80	25	12	37
——— ——— 80 and 90	2	2	4
In all	371	339	710

RELI-

Religion, Heritors, &c.

Number of Seceders, of all denominations	90
—— Members of the Eſtabliſhed Church	620
—— Proprietors - - -	13
—— Tenants - - - -	23
—— Inhabitants in the village -	180
—— Penſioners on the roll, from	8 to 10
—— Public houſe - - -	1

Stock.

Number of ſheep - - -	8400
—— Black cattle - - -	620
—— Horſes - - - -	193
—— Ploughs, Scotch and Engliſh -	48

Lands and Rents.

Number of acres in the pariſh - -			21,250
—— ditto annually under crops -			1,400
Valued rent in Scotch money	L.	3928 13	0
Real ditto in Sterling - -		2550 0	0
Of this ſum, 12 farmers pay -		1300 0	0
—— Two pay about - -		250 0	0
—— Other two —— -		200 0	0
—— Other two —— -		150 0	0
And five who have families pay -		650 0	0
Loweſt yearly rent of any farm -		20 0	0
Higheſt ditto - - -		250 0	0

Extract from the Register of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials, of the Parish of Edlestown, from 1st Jan. 1742, to 1st Jan. 1792.

Entries made	Mar.	Baptisms.		Burials.		Total of		
		Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Mar.	Bapt.	Bur.
within the year 1742	11	5	8	14	11			
—— —— 1743	9	10	11	9	8			
—— —— 1744	5	6	13	11	6			
—— —— 1745	8	8	5	15	11			
—— —— 1746	9	5	8	14	16			
—— —— 1747	13	7	13	11	12			
—— —— 1748	6	14	7	12	7			
—— —— 1749	7	11	10	4	4			
—— —— 1750	7	12	18	1	13			
—— —— 1751	10	8	10	10	12			
Total from 1st Jan. 1742, to 1st Jan. 1752	85	86	103	101	100	85	189	201
within the year 1752	7	12	7	12	5			
—— —— 1753	8	14	10	6	11			
—— —— 1754	10	10	9	14	10			
—— —— 1755	11	13	11	21	15			
—— —— 1756	4	10	11	13	24			
—— —— 1757	12	8	6	9	13			
—— —— 1758	9	13	10	4	5			
—— —— 1759	9	11	8	13	15			
—— —— 1760	6	13	13	11	11			
—— —— 1761	4	9	3	8	3			
Total from 1st Jan. 1752, to 1st Jan. 1762	80	113	88	111	112	80	201	223
within the year 1762	3	11	14	6	5			
—— —— 1763	5	9	9	13	15			
—— —— 1764	8	9	7	13	9			
—— —— 1765	8	10	14	6	15			
—— —— 1766	7	14	4	8	6			
—— —— 1767	8	9	4	7	13			
—— —— 1768	0	4	10	10	9			
—— —— 1769	4	14	8	10	9			
—— —— 1770	6	4	8	6	10			
—— —— 1771	9	10	9	13	8			
Total from 1st Jan. 1762, to 1st Jan.	68	94	87	92	99	68	181	191

Carried over

Extract from the Regiſter of Marriages, Baptiſms, and Burials, of the Pariſh of Edleſtown, from 1ſt Jan. 1742, *to 1ſt Jan.* 1792.

Entries made	Mar.	Baptiſms.		Burials.		Total of		
		Males	Fem.	Males	Fem	Mar.	Bapt.	Bur.
Brought forward						233	571	615
within the year 1772	11	4	11	5	4			
—— 1773	4	9	12	11	12			
—— 1774	7	10	9	10	19			
—— 1775	3	8	8	7	10			
—— 1776	7	9	4	4	7			
—— 1777	5	10	6	13	3			
—— 1778	9	11	8	8	3			
—— 1779	6	6	5	10	9			
—— 1780	7	7	7	11	9			
—— 1781	7	10	8	10	8			
Total from 1ſt Jan. 1772, to 1ſt Jan. 1782	66	84	78	89	84	66	162	173
within the year 1782	7	11	10	10	11			
—— 1783	5	11	12	11	5			
—— 1784	4	7	8	9	8			
—— 1785	5	8	8	8	5			
—— 1786	3	10	7	8	6			
—— 1787	6	10	4	5	2			
—— 1788	7	9	5	6	8			
—— 1789	3	11	5	13	9			
—— 1790	3	6	5	4	4			
—— 1791	8	3	9	4	7			
Total from 1ſt Jan. 1782, to 1ſt Jan. 1792	51	86	73	78	65	51	159	143
Total number of entries for 50 years - -						350	892	931
The number of thoſe buried here, who were not inhabitants of the pariſh, from 1ſt Jan. 1772, to 1ſt Jan. 1782, is 57 } And from 1ſt Jan. 1782, to ditto 1792 - - - 46 }								103
Which make in all, during the laſt 20 years - -								1034

Cauſes

Causes of Depopulation.—The above extract cannot ascertain the number of marriages which have actually taken place within the parish, as proclamation of banns is made when only one of the parties resides in it; but the register of baptisms applies strictly to the state of the parish, from which it appears, that its population has decreased gradually since the year 1762, which may be accounted for from the following causes: First, 14 cottages, formerly occupied by married servants, have been allowed to fall into disrepair. 2*dly*, Twelve of the farmers are batchelors. 3*dly*, Two of those who are married have no children. 4*thly*, Other two do not reside. 5*thly*, Two are widowers. 6*thly*, Of the 13 heritors, 8 are non-resident, in which number are included all the great landholders; and, lastly, of the remaining 5 who are residents, only one is married, whose landed property does not exceed 17*l.* Sterling *per annum*. It is therefore presumable, that some of the above causes of the depopulation of this parish may not be permanent; and that at some future period, it may be restored nearly to the population of the year 1775.

Horses and Black Cattle.—All the above mentioned stock of horses, black cattle, and sheep, are reared within the parish. The horses are of the same breed with those used for draught all over the south of Scotland. A few horses are occasionally bred for sale, and bring from 10 to 20 guineas, according to their age or figure. Many black cattle are sold annually, some in milk, and some lean to graziers and feeders; but more generally, since the introduction of turnip husbandry, they are sold fat to the butcher in February and March. Many of them are sold at the fair, which is held annually for that purpose, on the 25th of September. The average weight of cows bred here, is 30 stone, and of full aged bullocks,

locks, 40 ſtone; but ſome of both kinds conſiderably exceed theſe weights.

Sheep and Wool.—The ſheep are all of the Tweeddale breed. The ſtore-maſters ſell their draught ewes with lamb in April, at from 10 l. to 11 l. Sterling per ſcore. Fat lambs are ſold from the 1ſt of July to the 25th of September, and bring, at an average, 6 l. the ſcore. Wedder and ewe hogs are ſold in June, the former from 8 l. to 10 l. the ſcore, and the latter from 6 l. to 8 l. per ditto; but the beſt of the ewe hogs are reſerved as ſtock. Ewes, which have not had lambs, are ſold to the butcher in July and Auguſt, at from 11 s. to 13 s. each; and old ewes, which have nurſed lambs, bring from 9 l. to 10 l the ſcore, in November and December. The *yeld* ewes weigh, at an average, 10 lib. Dutch, per quarter, and the old ewes 8 lib. per ditto, and carry from 3 lib. to 5 lib. tron of tallow. The ſheep are all ſmeared with tar and butter in November. They are ſhorn in June and July; and the wool is ſold from 5 s. to 7 s. per ſtone tron, according to its quality and cleanneſs.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church is ſuppoſed to be above 200 years old. Some of the ſeats in it bear date 1600. The money ſtipend, including 100 merks for communion elements, is 66 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling, with 53 bolls 1 firlot 1 peck 2 lippies of meal, and 21 bolls 1 firlot 1 peck and 2 lippies of bear. Lord Elibank is patron.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, beſides 16 s. 8 d. as ſeſſion-clerk, and 1 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, as collector of the poor's rate, which was eſtabliſhed here in 1752.—The annual aſſeſſment on the heritors and tenants, by equal proportions, for 20 years paſt, has been only 5 l. Sterling. The heritors and the miniſter have a meeting on the firſt Monday of May,

and

and another on the first Monday of November annually, for fixing the quantum of the poor's rates, admitting pensioners, and granting them annuities, according to their necessities. There have been no beggars in the parish since the establishment of a poor's rate. The pensioners on the heritor's list are all house-holders, and receive from 2 l. to 3 l. Sterling *per annum*. They have a fund of 325 l. Sterling at interest, which is annually increasing; and it is probable, that, a few years hence, it will not be necessary to continue the parochial assessment. The one half of the weekly collections in the church, after paying the salaries of the session-clerk and kirk officer, is appropriated to the supply of the poor who are not inrolled.

Character and Antiquities.—The inhabitants of this parish are generally oeconomical, industrious, and regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion.—There are no remains of antiquity in the parish, excepting the vestiges of two circular encampments, vulgarly called *rings*.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF BLAIR-GOWRIE.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.—SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES JOHNSTON, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name.

THE name of the pariſh is BLAIR-GOWRIE, ſo called from the village near which the church ſtands. In old papers it is ſometimes written *Blair-in-Gowrie*. Various etymologies and interpretations of it have been ſuggeſted. Like many other names of places in the pariſh, it is probably Gaelic. In that language *Blaar* is ſaid to be deſcriptive of a place where muir and moſs abound. Thus *Ardblair* is the height in the muir or moſs. The muir of Blair-Gowrie, abounding with moſs, is in the near neighbourhood of the village. *The Waltown of Blair, the Lochend of Blair, Little Blair*, and *Ardblair*, are names of places on the borders of the muir.

Extent, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.—The extent of it is conſiderable, being about 11 Engliſh miles long from S. to N. and in ſome places not leſs than 8 miles broad; but, (as may be ſeen from Mr Stobie's map of Perthſhire), the figure is irregular, being frequently interſected by the pariſhes of Kinloch, Bendochy, and Rattray. The connected part of it is

is only about 9 miles long, and from one to two miles broad. The pariſh is divided into two diſtricts by a branch of the Grampian mountains, which is the northern boundary of this part of the beautiful valley of Strathmore. The ſouthern diſtrict, which lies in the ſtrath, is about 4 miles long, and from one to two miles broad. In general it is flat. The northern diſtrict, which includes the detached parts of the pariſh, is high ground, very uneven in the ſurface. The arable land in it is in general ſloping, and, in many places, very ſteep. The hills are moſtly covered with heath. Some of them may be about 600 feet above the level of the ſea. The ſoil in both diſtricts, as may be ſuppoſed, is various. Along the ſide of the Illa, it is a deep rich loam, free from ſtones. Immediately north from that, it is a ſtiff loam upon a till bottom, wet and ſpouty. This laſt is a prevailing ſoil in the pariſh, and alſo a light dry earth full of ſtones, on a gravel bottom. In many places there is a thin ſtratum of a light black earth, either upon gravel or cold till. There are conſiderable tracts of hill, muir and moſs, and more than 1000 acres are covered with wood. Not above a third part of the pariſh conſiſts of arable ground.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The climate varies in different parts of the pariſh. It is often mild and temperate in the ſouthern diſtrict, while it is ſharp and cold in the northern. A remarkable difference is felt, on leaving the former to go to the latter. In both, however, the air on the whole is very ſalubrious, and the inhabitants are not ſubject to any peculiar diſtempers. Formerly, indeed, the lower part of the pariſh was much diſtreſſed with the ague, but ſince ſome of the lakes have been drained, that diſeaſe has totally diſappeared. The rheumatiſm is the moſt common diſorder, particularly among the poorer claſs of the people, when well advanced

in

in life. Inoculation for the ſmall-pox is now a good deal practiſed, and is almoſt always ſucceſsful in preventing the fatal effects of that diſeaſe. There are no inſtances of extraordinary longevity in the pariſh at preſent, yet there are many perſons living and vigorous, who are above 70, and ſome above 86. There is only one perſon above 90. It may be here mentioned, that the lady of a conſiderable proprietor in the pariſh died not long ago, who ſaw in her own houſe eighty-four returns of Chriſtmas. The manſion-houſe is cloſe adjoining to ſeveral lakes.

Rivers, Caſcades, Fiſh, Birds, Scenery, &c.—The *Iſla*, which waſhes the northern part of this pariſh, is the moſt conſiderable of our rivers. It has been frequently mentioned in former reports. As its banks are low in this pariſh, it often ſuddenly overflows them, and occaſions conſiderable loſs and diſappointment to the huſbandman. This was remarkably the caſe in harveſt 1789.—The next in ſize is the *Ericht*, which, from its rapidity, has acquired the appellation of the *Ireful Ericht*. It is formed by the junction of the *Ardle* and the *Black-Water*. It runs along the eaſt ſide of the pariſh for about 9 miles. Its channel in general is very rocky and uneven, and it often varies in its depth and breadth. The banks in many places are ſo low, that it frequently overflows them, and does conſiderable damage, eſpecially in harveſt. In other parts they riſe to a great height, are very rugged, and often covered with wood. About two miles north from the village of Blair-Gowrie, they riſe at leaſt 200 feet above the bed of the river; and on the weſt ſide are formed, for about 700 feet in length, and 220 feet in height, of perpendicular rock, as ſmooth as if formed by the tool of the workman. The place where this phenomenon is to be ſeen is called *Craiglioch*, where the traveller may be furniſhed with one of the

moſt romantic ſcenes in North Britain. Here hawks neſtle, and their young ones have been frequently carried away by falconers from different parts of the kingdom. Here, alſo, the natural philoſopher and botaniſt may find ample amuſement. Two miles farther down this river is the *Keith*, a natural caſcade, conſiderably improved by art. It is ſo conſtructed that the ſalmon, which repair in great numbers to it, cannot get over it, unleſs when the river is very much ſwelled. The manner of fiſhing here is probably peculiar to this place. The fiſhers during the day dig conſiderable quantities of clay, and wheel it to the river ſide immediately above the fall. About ſun-ſet the clay is turned into mortar, and hurled into the water. The fiſhers then ply their nets at different ſtations below, while the water continues muddy. This is repeated two or three times in the ſpace of a few hours. It is a kind of pot net, faſtened to a long pole, that is uſed here. The river is very narrow, confined by rocks compoſed of ſand and ſmall ſtones. The ſcenery, eſpecially on the weſt ſide, is very romantic and beautiful. Many gentlemen from all quarters repair to this river for amuſement. From the Keith for about two miles down the river, there is the beſt rod fiſhing to be found in Scotland, eſpecially for ſalmon. The fiſhing continues from the beginning of April to the 26th of Auguſt. The fiſhing with the pot net is confined to a ſmall part of the river, near the Keith. When the water is very ſmall, which is often the caſe in ſummer, the fiſh are caught in great numbers, in the different pools, with a common net *. They are neither ſo large nor ſo rich as thoſe of the Tay. The fiſhing on this ſide of the river was long

* Formerly the fiſh were almoſt all bought up for the London market, at 6 d. the lib. till Whitſunday, and at 4 d. during the reſt of the ſeaſon. Laſt year they were moſtly ſold in the neighbourhood.

long let at 100 merks; it now gives 30 l. Sterling. Plenty of trouts are found in the Ericht. The Ardle alſo waſhes this pariſh for a ſhort way on the north. Sometimes ſalmon are caught in it, and it abounds with trouts. Like the Iſla and the Ericht, it frequently overflows its banks. There are two burns, or rivulets, remarkable only for their excellent trouts, and for driving ſome corn and lint mills.

Lakes, Iſlands, &c.—The pariſh abounds with lakes of different ſizes. Till lately there were more, but ſome have been drained, and now ſupply the neighbourhood with peats and marl *. In the lakes which ſtill remain, great quantities of pikes and perches are caught, partly with the rod, and partly with nets. They are much frequented by wild fowls of different kinds. In the middle of one of them are the remains of an old building on a ſmall iſland in it, in which tradition ſays treaſures were concealed in perilous times. A diſtrict in this county is ſaid to have acquired the appellation of *Storemount* from this circumſtance. Curling is an exerciſe at which the inhabitants of this diſtrict excel.

Minerals and Mineral Springs.—There is no lime-ſtone in the pariſh, neither is it well ſupplied with free-ſtone, though there are two quarries of this kind. Some whin-ſtone quaries have been wrought, and muir-ſtone is found in great plenty. There is one chalybeate ſpring in the Cloves of Mawes, which was formerly much reſorted to by perſons in its neighbourhood. It has been uſed, it is ſaid, with ſucceſs in ſcorbutic diſorders. There are appearances of ſeveral more

* In digging marl out of one of theſe, the ſkeleton of a large animal was uncovered, at leaſt 12 feet below the ſurface. The horns reſemble thoſe of a deer, and are of a very large ſize.

more ſprings of the ſame kind in different places of the pa-riſh.

Woods.—There are two oak woods in the pariſh; one a-long the weſtern bank of the Ericht, which is now cutting. This cutting ſold at 320 l. There is a ſmaller wood of the ſame kind on the property of Ardblair, and there are ſeveral birch woods in the head of the pariſh. There are only a few aſh, elm, and plane trees *. There are at leaſt 900 acres planted partly with larch, and partly with firs. It is to be regretted, that ſimilar plantations have not been made, on the mooriſh grounds in the northern diſtrict. There are vaſt tracts of muir, which turn to little account in their pre-ſent ſtate. Shelter is much needed where they abound. The moſſes, the greateſt ſources of fuel, are nearly exhauſt-ed, and every year become more difficult of acceſs. Coal is at a very conſiderable diſtance, and there is no water car-riage.

Population.—No dependence can be had on the pariſh re-giſter, for the number or proportion of births and burials. This may in ſome meaſure be accounted for from the great influx of emigrants from other pariſhes, eſpecially from the Highlands, who ſettle here as ſervants, &c. By comparing the report made to Dr Webſter, however, with the reſult of an accurate enumeration made in October, November, and December 1793, we are enabled to ſtate the exact increaſe, which is but ſmall in proportion to the influx of ſtrangers within theſe 40 years.

STATIS-

* In the year 1774, the muir of Blair-Gowrie, then a com-mon of 500 acres, was divided, and moſt of it, in 1775, was planted with Scotch firs; the reſt of it has been gradually plan-ted ſince that time, partly with larch, and partly with Scotch firs.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF BLAIR-GOWRIE.

	Families.		*Males.*	*Fem.*	*Souls.*
Resident in the country	261	containing	590	636	1226
——— in the village	133	———	183	242	425
In all	393		773	878	1651
Majority of females				105	
Number of souls in 1755					1596
Increase					55

CONDITIONS AND PROFESSIONS.

Proprietors - -	22	Masons - -	13
Clergyman - -	1	Flax-dreffers -	8
Surgeon - -	1	Lint-millers - -	7
Weavers - -	100	Corn ditto -	7
Tailors - -	10	Dyer - -	1
Carpenters - -	14	Carriers to Perth and Dun-	
Wheel wrights -	3	dee - - -	4
Cooper - - -	1	Butchers - -	3
Shoe-makers - -	8	Baker - - -	1
Shop-keepers -	18	Ale and ſpirit ſellers	23
Smiths - -	7		

RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS, BIRTHS, &c.

Members of the Eſtabliſhed		Roman Catholics -	2
Church - -	1507	Annual average of births	
Preſbytery of Relief	30	for 7 years paſt	36
Antiburgher Seceders	100	Ditto of deaths for ditto	27
Epiſcopalians -	12		

STOCK, RENT, &c.

Ploughs - -	111	Sheep - -	1220
Pairs of cart wheels	233	Valued rent in Scotch	
Horſes - -	311	money L. 5515 14 0	
Black Cattle -	1269		

Manufactures,

Manufactures, Mills, &c.—The principal branches of manufacture carried on in the pariſh are ſpinning and weaving. The women ſpin with both hands.—Beſides the flax raiſed in the pariſh, conſiderable quantities of foreign flax are ſpun; and the yarn is either wove in the pariſh and neighbourhood, or ſent to Dundee. Conſiderable quantities of houſehold cloth are wove here, and about 50,000 yards of yard-wides, part of which is bleached in the neighbouring pariſh of Rattray; but a greater proportion is ſold in the village of Blair-Gowrie, and ſent green to London. There are 7 meal mills, 2 lint mills, and 1 fulling mill in the pariſh. The rate of multure paid at the meal mills, is, in general, about a twelfth part of what is ground.

Cattle.—A good number of horſes are reared in the pariſh. They are of very different ſizes and value. A conſiderable proportion of them are very good draught horſes, but a ſtill greater proportion are ſmall and ill kept. The former kind are worth from 15 l. to 25 l. each; the latter, from 8 l. to 12 l. Many black cattle are alſo reared in the pariſh. Thoſe in the northern diſtrict are very ſmall, but they are conſiderably larger in the other. Great numbers are ſold out of the pariſh, when 3 or 4 years old, particularly of the ſtots. The ſtock of ſheep is much diminiſhed. They are moſtly of the white-faced kind, of a very ſmall ſize, and are ſold at from 6 s. to 9 s. a-piece. Their wool ſells at about 14 s. per ſtone. From 8 to 10 fleeces go to a ſtone. Too little attention is paid to this valuable animal in this pariſh.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—A boll of oat meal, weighing 8 ſtones, ſells, at an average, at from 14 s. 8 d. to 16 s.; a boll of wheat at 20 s.; barley at 15 s.; oats at 13 s.; and peaſe at 13 s. 4 d. Beef, mutton, and pork, are ſold at from

3 d.

3 d. to 4 d. per lib. Dutch weight. Little good veal is ſold in the pariſh. A hen ſells at from 10 d. to 1 s.; a chicken at 4 d.; eggs at 3 d. per dozen; butter from 8 d. to 9 d. per lib.; and cheeſe according to its quality and age. A day-labourer receives, during three months in the year, 6 d. per day, and 8 d. during the other months, with his maintenance. Maſons and wrights, when they furniſh their own proviſions, receive 1 s. 8 d. A good plough-man receives from 8 l. to 10 l.; a maid-ſervant 3 l. with the crop of 2 lippies of lint-ſeed ſown in her maſter's ground, or an equivalent for it, if he be not a farmer.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Schools, &c.—The ſtipend, as fixed by a decreet of the Court of Teinds, in 1791, is 5 chalders of grain, two thirds meal and one third bear, with 45 l. Sterling of money, and 5 l. for communion elements. The glebe contains 9½ acres, of which 4½ are good ſoil; the other 5, lately obtained in lieu of graſs ground, are of an inferior quality, and at a conſiderable diſtance from the manſe. The right of patronage is veſted in Colonel Allan Macpherſon of Blair-Gowrie, and Colonel William Lindſay of Spynie, in conſequence of his marriage with one of the co-heireſſes of Ardblair.—The church ſtands on high ground, about 200 yards north from the village of Blair-Gowrie, having a deep den, planted with different kinds of trees, immediately behind it. It was built in 1767, and is a plain ſubſtantial edifice, at preſent in good repair, but cold in winter. It would be much improved with being ceiled, and having porches at the doors, which are in the ends of it. The manſe and a ſet of offices were built in 1771; but the offices were ſo ill executed, that, after the preſent incumbent was ſettled, it was found more expedient to rebuild than repair the greater part of them, which was accordingly done. Both manſe and offices

offices are now in good order, as are alſo the ſchool and ſchool-houſe. There is one eſtabliſhed ſchool in the pariſh, in which reading Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and ſome branches of mathematics are taught. From 30 to 50 ſcholars attend, according to the ſeaſon of the year. The preſent teacher, who has long taught ſucceſsfully, lately obtained a ſmall augmentation of ſalary; but even with this addition, it is only 200 merks. The ſchool fees are, per quarter, 1 s. for reading Engliſh; 1 s. 6 d. for writing, arithmetic, and Latin. The whole emoluments, excluſive of a free houſe, do not exceed 22 l. a year, a reward by no means adequate to the abilities and application of ſo important an office. There is one charity ſchool occaſionally taught in the head of the pariſh. In the winter ſeaſon, there are two or three private ſchools kept up by the tenants, in corners remote from the parochial ſchool.

Poor.—There are no begging poor belonging to the pariſh. For many years paſt, the average number on the poor's roll has been 14. The heritors and kirk-ſeſſion meet twice a year to ſettle the roll. From 2s. to 5 s. are given to each monthly, according to their reſpective circumſtances. They alſo receive occaſional donations, eſpecially in winter. Occaſional charities are likewiſe given to individuals, and families not on the roll, which is attended with good effects, and often prevents them from coming on it. The fund for the ſupport of the poor ariſes from the intereſt of a ſmall ſtock, from the collections at the church doors, from the dues of the mort-cloths, and from the rent of the ſeats in the galleries of the church, amounting in all to about 35 l. Sterling. The ſum expended has not varied very much for theſe 16 years paſt, except in 1783, when it was much greater, than in any other year of the period mentioned. The members of the kirk-ſeſſion are very careful

careful in guarding, on the one hand, againſt impoſition, and, on the other, that no neceſſitous perſon be neglected *. Though there are no begging poor belonging to the pariſh, yet the pariſhioners are much oppreſſed with beggars and vagrants from other diſtricts, many of whom are very worthleſs.

Village and Markets, &c.—The village of Blair-Gowrie is pleaſantly ſituated on the north ſide of Strathmore, almoſt cloſe upon the river Ericht. It was made a borough of barony, by a charter from Charles I. in 1634. The whole of it belongs, in property or ſuperiority, to Colonel Allan M'Pherſon, who is proprietor of about a fourth part of the pariſh. The ſituation of the village is very healthy, and it is well ſupplied with water.—There are 3 fairs held in it annually, and ſome attempts have been made to have a weekly market in it, but with little ſucceſs. The village is well ſupplied with butcher meat and other articles. It has increaſed very much within theſe few years. As it is ſituated on a military road, any of the inhabitants may retail ale and ſpirits, on paying 1 s. annually. There are no leſs than 19 dram-ſhops in it, which muſt be attended with bad conſequences to the morals of the people.

Bleach-field, Cloth, Stamp-office, &c.—There is a bleach-field in the pariſh of Rattray, about a mile from Blair-Gowrie. The cloth is whitened as it is ſent from different quarters. A-

* In 1782, the harveſt was late, and the crop was much injured. In 1783, the meal was ſcarce and high priced. The kirk-ſeſſion employed the poor's ſtock in purchaſing meal at a diſtance, which was ſold at prime coſt. A ſmall proportion of the barley meal, voted by Parliament for the relief of the Highlands, was ſent to this pariſh. Many of the heritors provided good ſeed corn for their tenants, where it was neceſſary.

bout 50,000 may be the average number of yards annually wove in the pariſh. The cloth ſells at about 8½ d. per yard. Conſiderable quantities of houſehold cloth, and ſome Heſſian ſtuffs are alſo wove in the diſtrict.—There was formerly a ſtamp-office for ſtamping cloth in the village. This was diſcontinued for ſome years, but was again eſtabliſhed in 1785. The following abſtract was taken from the books, containing the number of yards ſtamped for the laſt 8 years; and refers not only to the cloth wove in the pariſh of Blair-Gowrie, but alſo to what comes from the neighbouring pariſhes, as well as to what is whitened at the bleach-field.

Anno.	*Num. of Yards.*	*Anno.*	*Num. of Yards.*
1785 —	17,197	Brought over	492,102
1786 —	50,380	1790 —	190,682
1787 —	128,559	1791 —	220,371
1788 —	130,602	1792 —	252,485
1789 —	165,364		
		Total	1,155,640
Carried over	492,102		

State of Property, Incloſures, &c.—There are 22 heritors, and a great many feuers in the village of Blair-Gowrie. Only one of the greater heritors reſides in the pariſh. Many of them are poſſeſſed of conſiderable eſtates in other pariſhes. Moſt of the ſmaller proprietors reſide upon, and farm part of their own property. The real rent cannot, therefore, be eaſily aſcertained. Good ground, in farms, gives from 15 s. to 21 s. and ſome of it 30 s. per acre. The land around the village lets at from 30 s. to 43 s. The number of acres in the pariſh is not known, as part of it has not been meaſured. Some progreſs has been made in incloſing, within theſe 6 years, but ſtill at leaſt three fourths of the pariſh lie open, and very few farms have been ſubdivided. The incloſures are either

ſtone

ſtone dykes, or hedge and ditch. Probably ſufficient attention is not paid to this laſt kind of fence; the young thorns ſhould be more cheriſhed and better defended, in order to ſecure good fences. One property in the northern diſtrict is almoſt completely incloſed and ſubdivided, and lets, from year to year, conſiderably higher for paſture than it would do upon an ordinary leaſe for tillage. About 4 years ago, above a fourth part of the pariſh was ſold at 36 years purchaſe, and is likely to turn out a good bargain. The rent of land continues to riſe in this pariſh.

Agriculture, Produce, &c.—The ploughs are of the Scotch make, conſiderably improved. Within theſe 12 years, there has been a very conſiderable alteration in the mode of plowing. In general the plough is now drawn by two horſes, and driven by the man who holds it. In breaking up old ley, or in giving the firſt plowing to ſtiff ground, 3 horſes are ſometimes yoked; and, in one or two corners, the plough is drawn by 4 horſes yoked a-breaſt, and driven by a man who holds the horſes by the halters, and walks backwards. In general the farmers in the northern diſtrict are very induſtrious; but they are only emerging out of the old method of culture. The diſtinction of *out-field* and *in field* ſtill takes place in ſome degree. Turnips and ſown graſs are only beginning to find their way into this diſtrict. The want of incloſures, and *winter herding*, are great obſtacles to their progreſs, particularly in thoſe corners where ſheep are kept. The tenantry here labour under many diſadvantages. Much of their time in ſummer is conſumed in procuring fuel; they are far from manure; the ground lies open, is full of baulks and large ſtones, and in ſome places it is very wet and ſpouty. This laſt circumſtance, with the coldneſs of the climate, many plead as an apology, for not having more of their farms in

ſown

ſown graſs for ſummer feeding and hay. They allow that white clover and rye graſs ſucceed with them, but complain that the roots of the red clover are frequently thrown out in ſpring. Incloſing, draining, and clearing the ground of ſtones, are much wanted in this diſtrict.—The crops raiſed in it are barley, oats, potatoes, a ſmall proportion of peaſe, turnips, ſown graſs, and ſome flax. All the flax raiſed in the pariſh is ſpun in it; and the rents of many of the ſmaller farms are moſtly paid, with the money got for the yarn, ſpun in the winter months.

Improvements, Farm Rents, &c.—Greater progreſs in improvement has been made in the ſouthern diſtrict than in the other. Here the new method of huſbandry is more generally practiſed, and excellent crops are raiſed of wheat, peaſe, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips, graſs, and alſo ſome flax. But even here ſufficient attention is not paid to a proper rotation of cropping. The following rotations are moſt univerſally obſerved. Where wheat is raiſed, the rotation is this; after graſs comes oats, then ſummer fallowing; then wheat, peaſe, barley, oats with graſs ſeeds. The dung is given to the wheat. In the diviſion for peaſe, potatoes and turnips are raiſed along with the peaſe, and get a little dung. Sometimes the graſs is kept 2 or 3 years, but more frequently only one year. On the farms where wheat is not ſown, the following rotation takes place: After 3 crops of graſs, the ground is broken up for oats, of which one crop is taken. The oats are followed with turnips, potatoes, and peaſe in one diviſion. Barley, with graſs ſeeds, ſucceeds the green crop. The dung is given to the green crop. In the diviſion for oats, a proportion of flax is ſown, and not unfrequently a crop both of barley and oats is taken after the green crop, and the graſs ſeeds in that caſe are ſown with the

the oats. The farms in both diſtricts are of different ſizes, from 10 l. to 130 l. Part of the pariſh is let in ſmall poſſeſſions of a few acres to trades people, and this is one reaſon for the great number of ploughs and horſes; as there are often a plough and two horſes, where the poſſeſſion does not exceed twelve acres. Where the farmer does not carry on his work with the aſſiſtance of his children, it is generally done by ſervants who live in the family, except in harveſt, for which additional aſſiſtance is ſecured ſome months before. Sometimes a houſe, kail-yard, and an acre of land, are given to trades people, who pay their rent by aſſiſting in harveſt, and at turnip cleaning. Oats are ſown from the middle of March to the middle of April; then peaſe and lint-ſeed. Bear is ſown in May, and turnips in June. The harveſt generally begins in the end of Auguſt: It is ſomewhat later in the northern diſtrict. The pariſh more than ſupplies itſelf with grain; conſiderable quantities of it, particularly of barley, are ſold out of it.

Roads and Bridges.—The great road, from Coupar of Angus to Fort George, paſſes through this pariſh. It was made at the expence of Government, and is kept in good repair by the ſtatute labour of the country, with the occaſional aſſiſtance of military parties. It is regretted, that a different direction was not given it, after it reached Blair-Gowrie. Had it been made to croſs the Ericht at Blair-Gowrie, run along the eaſt ſide of that river, re-croſs it near Craig-hall, and keep lower down in its courſe through Mawes, the high ground, over which it now paſſes, would have been avoided, and the traveller would have been ſaved many a long and ſteep aſcent. The great road from Dunkeld to Kirrie-muir alſo paſſes through the pariſh, and cuts the military road at right angles: It is kept in tolerable repair. The croſs roads are many. Till lately, the ſtatute labour was exacted in kind;

kind; it is now commuted, at the rate of from 8 s. to 12 s. for every plough-gate, or 10 s. for every 100 l. Scotch of valued rent. There are no turnpikes. Beſides many ſmall arches over ſmall ſtreams, there are 4 bridges, two on the military road, one over the Black-Water, and one over the Ericht. The two laſt were built by ſubſcription.

Gentlemen's Seats.—NEWTON-HOUSE, once the ſeat of the proprietors of the Barony of Blair-Gowrie, and lately poſſeſſed by the preſent proprietor, is an old building, ſomething in the ſtile of a caſtle *. It ſtands about the middle of the ſouth ſlope of the range of high ground, which bounds Strathmore on the north, and has a moſt commanding view, not only of Strathmore, but alſo of part of different counties. —About half a mile farther weſt, lies the manſion-houſe of the old family of the Blairs of Ardblair. That family were long the proprietors of a moſt extenſive property in the pariſh, and are ſtill poſſeſſed of a fifth part of it. The manſion-houſe ſeems evidently to have been ſurrounded with water on three ſides. The lake has been drained, and a conſiderable treaſure of moſs and marl has been thus diſcovered.—The proprietor of Blair-Gowrie and Mawes lately built a moſt ſubſtantial and commodious houſe, with offices, about a quarter of a mile ſouth from the village of Blair-Gowrie, on a beautiful flat near the banks of the Ericht. When the planting has got up, it will be a moſt delightful habitation.

Eminent Men.—GEORGE DRUMMOND, Eſq; who long diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a public-ſpirited magiſtrate in Edinburgh, who was 5 or 6 times elected Lord Provoſt of that metro-

* This houſe was rebuilt on the foundation of the old houſe, ſaid to be burnt down by Oliver Cromwell. Many gentlemen were miraculouſly ſaved in a vault of the old houſe, while it was burnt down.

metropolis, and who had ſo active a hand in promoting the erection of the Royal Infirmary, Royal Exchange, &c. was born in Newton-Houſe, in this pariſh.

Antiquities.—There are the remains of ſeveral Druidical temples in the pariſh. Immediately behind the manſe there is a circular mound, or mote-hill, where, it is ſaid, Earl Gowrie held his regality courts. It conſiſts of ſtrata of earth and gravel, and is ſurrounded on the top with a dyke of the ſame materials. There are ſome large cairns *. Beſides theſe, there are many ſmaller tumuli running through the pariſh in different directions, from an encampment in the neighbouring pariſh of Kinloch †.

Diſadvantages.—The time conſumed in providing ſeed corn and turf, and in bringing coals from Perth and Dundee, is a great bar to improvement. The diſtance from theſe towns is a great diſadvantage. This will, in ſome meaſure, be removed by the propoſed bridge over the Iſla, near its junction with the Tay, and the road leading from the bridge to Perth, which will ſhorten the diſtance from this pariſh to that town about 4 miles. The tenants are beginning to bring lime from Perth; they will do it more eaſily, when the road is made and the bridge built. Converting into money the ſervices performed by the tenants, incloſing and ſubdividing their farms, and making plantations of larches and Scotch firs

* One of theſe was lately laid open, and a ſmall ſtone coffin was found in the bottom of it.

† An opinion is entertained by many gentlemen, that the battle between Agricola and Galgacus was fought in the Store-mount, and that the Caledonians, when forced to give way, fled in diſorder. Many of them were killed in their flight through this pariſh. This opinion ſeems well founded, and is probably well ſupported, by thoſe who are more concerned to defend it.

firs in the hilly and mooriſh grounds, would doubtleſs tend much to the cultivation and improvement of this country.

Character, &c.—The inhabitants of this pariſh are, in general, ſober, induſtrious, attentive to their reſpective callings, and exemplarily regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. They are charitably diſpoſed, and ſeem contented with their condition. They enjoy, in a reaſonable degree, the benefits and comforts of ſociety. Their houſes, dreſs, and manner of living, are conſiderably improved.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF CARDROSS.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON—SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER M'AULAY, *Miniſter.*

Situation, Extent, Rivers, Surface, and Soil.

CARDROSS is waſhed on the eaſt border by the river Leven, and on the ſouth by the Frith of Clyde. Its length, from Dumbarton Bridge to its boundary with the pariſh of Row, is about 7 miles; its breadth, from the conflux of the Leven and Clyde to its junction with the pariſh of Bonhill, is 3 miles. The ſituation of the pariſh is peculiarly beautiful: The Clyde runs for 7 miles along its coaſt, and, being partly oppoſite to the flouriſhing towns of Port-Glaſgow and Greenock, it commands a proſpect of the whole ſhipping, that great ſource of induſtry and wealth to the weſtern part of Scotland. The ground along the Frith has a gradual aſcent from the ſhore, for upwards of two miles, till it terminates in a ridge of hills, which ſeparate it from the lands in the neighbourhood of Leven and Loch-Lomond. The ſoil contiguous to the ſhore is of a light gravelly nature; but, at a ſhort diſtance, it contains a conſiderable mixture of clay. The lands adjacent to the Leven partake ſomething of the nature of carſe.

Agriculture.—Farming has not yet made that progress, which, from the advantageous situation of the parish, might have been expected. It has, however, for these 10 years past, been making rapid advances. In order to promote this, the proprietors have contributed much. Besides their own example, which seldom fails to produce in the end the best effects, they have inclosed almost the whole grounds, and laid them out, in many places, in such divisions and subdivisions, as are best suited to their respective farms. Farmers, and, indeed, men of every description, overcome with difficulty prejudices which they have early imbibed. These prejudices operate as a second nature, and, for a long time, bid defiance to the soundest arguments. It is a practice in this parish with many, of never beginning to plough till the 10th day of March. However inviting the season may be prior to this period, it matters nothing; they adhere to the custom of their fathers. To begin sooner, it is thought, would prove detrimental to the soil, and injurious to the ensuing crop. This late plowing occasions a late seed-time, and of course a late harvest, a circumstance which is, for the most part, accompanied with many disadvantages. This prejudice, however, is beginning gradually to lose its influence, and in a short time, it is hoped, it will be effectually removed.

Produce.—The common produce of the parish is oats and bear; and, of late, where the soil is of a stronger quality, considerable crops of wheat, pease, and beans are raised. Potatoes are every where cultivated. The farmers, within these few years, have begun to see the advantage of green crops; accordingly a number of fields are laid down in clover and rye-grass, but the culture of turnips is only in its infancy.

Manure.

Manure.—There is plenty of lime-ſtone on the lands of Camis-Eſkan, the property of the family of Colgrain: Large quantities are regularly burnt, with which the neighbourhood is ſupplied. The expence of burning is conſiderable, as the coal is brought by water from Glaſgow, at the rate of between 5 *s.* and 6 *s.* the 12 cwt. On the ſhore there is a good deal of ſea ware driven in, during the winter and ſpring, which is carefully collected, and when laid upon lee ground proves an excellent manure. Beſides this, which is called *blown ware*, large quantities of it are cut every third year. This, adhering to the ſtones and rocks within water-mark, grows in three years to a conſiderable length, and contains a greater abundance of thoſe ſalts and juices which promote vegetation. As Cardroſs lies oppoſite to Port-Glaſgow and Greenock, and as the Frith is only from 2 to 4 miles in breadth, there is an eaſy acceſs by water to theſe towns. In conſequence of this, it has become an object of great importance to the farmer to import from them ſtreet dung; and, although this is done at great expence, each full cart, including every charge, amounting at leaſt to 2 *s.* Sterling, yet the returns amply compenſate the whole trouble and outlay.

Draining, &c.—Few of the farmers in this pariſh are poſſeſſed of a capital, ſufficient for carrying on extenſive improvements. They with difficulty ſtock their farms, which are rented in general from 20 *l.* to 50 *l.* Sterling. They embrace the readieſt methods in their power, of raiſing articles to pay their rents, and cannot afford to wait thoſe diſtant, though ſure returns, with which the improving farmer muſt lay his account. Before this pariſh can be improved, a large capital muſt be employed in draining. The climate, like that of every other pariſh near the mouth of the Clyde, is wet. In conſequence of the heavy, and almoſt inceſſant rains,

which

which fall in the harveſt and winter months, the lands are for a long time drenched in water, and, of courſe, rendered much leſs valuable both to the proprietor and tenant. Nothing but draining can remove this inconvenience, and facilitate improvements; and as the proprietors are chiefly intereſted in this, their exertions, it is hoped, will every day be more and more employed to promote ſo important an end.

Cattle.—Formerly almoſt every farmer kept a few ſheep; but now, excepting on three farms, this practice is entirely given over. Too little attention, in general, is given to the breed of milk cows. It is alſo a practice too much followed, to overſtock the ground; in conſequence of which, the growth of the cows is injured, and the produce of the dairy diminiſhed. The breed of horſes is greatly improved. Their price, in the Glaſgow market, is from 15 l. to 30 l. Sterling.

Farm Houſes.—It muſt afford great pleaſure to the traveller to obſerve the neat farm houſes, which are interſperſed through this country. In this pariſh they are every year increaſing in number, a circumſtance which does no ſmall credit to the proprietors. Sir ARCHIBALD EDMONSTON of Duntreath, Bart. member of Parliament for Dunbarton ſhire, in this, and, indeed, in every other pariſh where his extenſive property lies, has furniſhed an example, which, it is hoped, will ſoon be generally followed. His tenants are all well lodged, and, comparatively ſpeaking, elegantly. Inſtead of the old low-built and confined houſes, which their fathers inhabited, Sir Archibald has given them houſes and offices ſuited to their reſpective farms, upon a plan, which conveys an idea of neatneſs and improvement that is highly pleaſing.

Woods and Fuel.—The natural wood is conſiderable; it will bring, at a cutting, betwixt 2000 l. and 3000 l. Sterling. Beſides this, there are nearly 200 acres planted with Scotch firs, larixes, &c. Theſe plantations are all ſucceeding well, and being laid out with judgment and taſte, give an appearance of improvement to the country, which cannot fail to pleaſe. Coal is the principal fuel, 12 cwt. of which, brought by water, coſts in the Cardroſs Bay, where it is unloaded, 5 s. Sterling. Many of the farmers bring their coals from Kilpatrick, and pay at the pit 2 s. per cart. Attempts have been made to find coal in this pariſh, but as yet they have proved unſucceſsful.

Rents, Proprietors, &c.—The valued rent is 3000 l. Scotch. It is difficult to ſay what the real rent amounts to, as many of the proprietors retain conſiderable farms in their own hands. The value of land, however, muſt be on the riſe. The great influx of ſtrangers, in conſequence of the manufactures upon the Leven, occaſions an increaſing demand for whatever the pariſh produces. Thus the farmers find a ready and convenient market at home, a circumſtance which cannot fail to accelerate the improvement of the country, and increaſe the real rent of the proprietors. In the neighbourhood of the Leven, many incloſures are let upon leaſes, for between 2 l. and 4 l. Sterling per acre. There are 13 heritors, 3 of whom poſſeſs more than two thirds of the whole.

Roads.—The two great roads through the pariſh, the one leading to Loch-Lomond, the other running along the Clyde, are kept in the beſt poſſible repair. To theſe the ſtatute labour, now commuted, is annually applied. Great praiſe, however, cannot be beſtowed on the croſs or pariſh roads. But as the commiſſioners muſt be ſenſible of the neceſſity of croſs

cross roads for the improvement of the country, no exertion, we are convinced, will be wanting on their part to promote so laudable an end.

Population.—The population has of late greatly increased. From a list taken in November 1793, it appears there were no fewer than - - - 2194 souls.
The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was only - 795

Increase within these 38 years - 1399

Of the above number there are

Children under 10 years of age - -	614
Ditto above that age - - - -	482
Heads of families, including both husbands and wives - - -	847
Hired servants - - -	251
	2194
In the village of Renton, about - -	1200
In the rest of the parish - - -	994
	2194

	Births *.	*Marriages.*
Registered in 1791	75	17
——— in 1792	60	21

Print-fields.—The print-fields of *Dalquhurn* † and *Cordale* are by far the most considerable and extensive of any in Scotland.

* It is difficult accurately to ascertain the number of children that are annually born, as many, who are not of the establishment, neglect their registration. There is no register of deaths.

† The ground, now occupied by the former, was early in this century set apart chiefly for a bleach-field. A few coarse handkerchiefs,

land. Meſſrs Stirlings, who purchaſed this field from the original proprietors, are well known. At firſt they had a field at Daſholm, in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, where they carried on the buſineſs of printing to a conſiderable extent. Upwards of 20 years ago, they removed from that ſituation to the river Leven in this pariſh. To this they might have been led by a variety of circumſtances, but by nothing more than by the ſoftneſs and tranſparency of the water of the Leven, ſo peculiarly fitted for the purpoſe of bleaching. A neck of land, in the form of a peninſula, occaſioned, it would appear, by the river forſaking its former channel, was the place marked out as the moſt proper to anſwer the end which they propoſed. Accordingly, in 1772, a purchaſe was made of this ſpot, called *Cardale*, and upon it houſes have been built, and machinery conſtructed, to an extent, and upon a plan, which muſt have coſt the company an amazing ſum.—At theſe fields, the property of this company, there were employed, in ſummer 1792, 876 perſons. Of theſe 300 were girls (*pincellers*), and about 130 were boys, from 8 to 15 years of age. It may be proper to obſerve, that the boys are in general healthy, active, and lively, having nothing of that pale and ſickly look, which too often marks thoſe boys who are employed in the cotton ſpinning. The wages for one month, July 1792, amounted to within a triſle of 1000 l. Sterling. It would be to no purpoſe to enter here into a minute detail; the Statiſtical Account of the pariſh

kerchiefs, it is true, were then printed; but nothing fine or valuable in the printing line was carried on, till about 20 years ago, when it was purchaſed by a company in Glaſgow, under the firm of M'Alpine, Fleeming, and Co. Buildings were raiſed, and machinery conſtructed, by this company, at great expence; an extenſive capital was employed, and every appearance promiſed ſucceſs. This flattering proſpect, however, was ſoon clouded. Diſputes ariſing among the partners produced a ſale of the property, and a diſſolution of the company.

parish of Bonhill, already published, contains all the necessary information: To it the reader is referred *. Suffice it to observe, that every division of labour takes place at these two fields, which is known to facilitate the work, and to carry the art to a high degree of perfection. The goods manufactured are said to rival, in the London market, to which most of them are sent, even those of the finest quality that are the manufacture of the first print-fields in England.

Villages.—In the year 1782, the hands employed at the above fields had become so numerous, that it was extremely difficult to accommodate them, in houses and lodging in the neighbourhood. Mrs SMOLLETT of Bonhill, whose lands lay most contiguous, readily embraced this opportunity of improving her family estate, and of accommodating the public. Accordingly, a village was planned by the advice, and under the direction of her son, now her successor. No sooner was this plan adjusted, and the terms of building fixed upon, which are from 9 d. to 14 d. the fall, upon transferable leases of 99 years, than a great number of steadings were purchased, and houses immediately built. The first stone was laid in 1782, and the village was called *Rentoun* by the feuers, in compliment to the present Mrs Smollet, who had been active in encouraging an undertaking of such importance, both to her family and to the public. Since the above period, the village has rapidly increased. It consists of three principal streets, which run in a direction from north to south, parallel to one another. These again are intersected by a number of other streets, all laid off at regular distances. The demand for houses, every where upon the Leven, has, within these few years past, been very great. In consequence of this, besides the village of Rentoun, a number of houses have been

* See volume III. No. LXV.

been built in this pariſh, oppoſite to Dumbarton, upon feus from Mr Denniſton of Colgrain; and a village is juſt now begun upon the property of Mr Graham of Garrmore, which, it is probable, when the preſent ſtagnation of buſineſs is over, will faſt increaſe in population.

Diſtillery, Mills, Ferries, &c.—There is one diſtillery, which conſumes of the produce of the pariſh about 500 bolls of bear and barley. The number of public houſes, or rather whiſky ſhops, has of late been greatly diminiſhed. The Juſtices have for this year given licence to only two in the village of Renton, to ſell ſpirits of home produce. There are three corn mills, at two of which the multure on the aſtricted lands, is nearly in the proportion of one peck and an half the boll, conſiſting of 8 ſtones. This proves a great diſcouragement to improvement. There are 4 different ferries, two of theſe are of great antiquity, as appears from the charters of the proprietors. The prices of labour, victuals, &c. are nearly the ſame as in Glaſgow and its neighbourhood.

Fiſheries.—The *Zair* or *Yair Fiſhings*, ſo productive in this pariſh, ſeem to be almoſt peculiar to it. A yare is built of ſtones gathered from the ſide water-mark, about 4 feet in height, and of conſiderable length, and ſtretches out into the river in the form of a creſcent, or of three ſides of a ſquare; but to give it a probability of ſucceeding, it muſt proceed from a point of land, ſo as to incloſe a bay. The diſtance which it is extended from the ſhore is ſuch, as to make it appear, or to *crown*, as the fiſhers term it, about two hours before low water. Were it placed farther into the ſea, or built higher, the ſurf would be continually beating it down. In ſpring tides, the water retiring quickly, great quantities of fiſh, particularly herrings, are occaſionally taken within

theſe incloſures; and ſalmon, in ſmall quantities, during the ſpring and ſummer months. Along the Cardroſs ſhore there are many ſuch incloſures, but thoſe moſt happily ſituated are the properties of Mr Denniſtoun of Colgrain, and Mr Noble of Noble-Farm. The rights to theſe yare fiſhings prove them to be of very high antiquity, being granted by crown charters above 500 years ago, and confirmed by all ſubſequent charters. By theſe, the proprietors of the ſoil have the right of exerciſing yare fiſhings upon the ſhore to low water-mark. Some of theſe rights extend as far as a man can ride beyond low water, and from that throw a twelve-feet ſpear. This extent of ſhore, during the herring ſeaſon, is attentively guarded, that the fiſh which may entrap themſelves in theſe yares, may neither be alarmed by, nor taken in the nets of the boat-fiſhers.—It is remarked, from the earlieſt accounts of this kind of fiſhing, that the herrings viſit the river Clyde, at nearly 3 equal periods in 100 years, each period conſiſting of ſeveral years fiſhing. The mode of ſecuring what fiſh may be in the yares, is with a hand-net. By ancient cuſtom, two thirds belong to the yare proprietor, and one third to the fiſher, if a tenant upon the adjoining lands. But when ſtrangers are permitted to fiſh, they have only one fourth part of their ſucceſs allowed them.

Church, &c.—The church of Cardroſs originally ſtood in the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh, oppoſite to Dumbarton, and ſeparated from it by the river Leven. This ſituation muſt have been very inconvenient to the pariſh, and therefore, in 1643, a new church was built in the place where it now ſtands, the moſt centrical, indeed, that could have been choſen, and the moſt convenient to the pariſh at large. The church is a neat building, well lighted and well ſeated. It underwent a complete repair in 1775, and, by the care and attention

attention of the heritors, it is kept in the beſt poſſible order. The manſe was built about 60 years ago; ſince that period it has undergone frequent repairs. Upon the ſucceſſion of the preſent incumbent, in 1791, the heritors, with the greateſt frankneſs, laid out 200l. Sterling in repairing of the manſe and offices. The crown is patron, and the miniſter titular. Cardroſs is one of the few pariſhes in Scotland, where the right of titular is veſted in the incumbent. From a late inveſtigation, in aſcertaining the right of patronage, it appears, that it was neither a mental church, nor ever annexed to any religious houſe, and therefore, as the Crown is patron, it continues at this day preciſely in the ſame ſtate as before the Reformation; with this difference only, that there has been a dilapidation of 11 bolls of meal. Beſide the pariſh church, there are other two houſes for public worſhip; the one of the Burgher perſuaſion in the village of Rentoun; the other of the Relief, lately built in the neighbourhood of Dumbarton. Theſe diſſenters conſiſt chiefly of people connected with the printfields. The farmers, in general, are attached to the eſtabliſhment.

School.—The ſchoolmaſter draws no ſalary from the heritors. The emoluments of his office ariſe from his ſchool, which, at an average, may be frequented by 40 or 50 ſcholars, and from a donation of the family of Kilmahew. This donation conſiſts in the yearly payment of 5 l. being the intereſt of 100 l. Sterling ſunk for the behoof of the ſchoolmaſter, and placed under the management of the heritors. Beſides this ſum, which was bequeathed for the above purpoſe by a younger branch of the family, the proprietor himſelf executed a deed, diſponing to the public teacher a right to an acre of land, a cow's paſture upon a ſpecified farm, and 5 bolls 1 firlot of bear, payable from certain other farms upon

on the eſtate of Kilmahew. Over and above the fees for teaching, and the ſaid donation, the perquiſites of ſeſſion-clerk may be equal, *communibus annis*, to 5 l. Sterling.

Poor.—The poor are ſupplied from two ſources—from the weekly collection, which, with the proclamation money, may amount annually to upwards of 30 l. Sterling; and from a legacy bequeathed a few years after the Revolution, by a Mrs Muir, a native of this pariſh, and originally of the name of Watſon. This legacy conſiſted of 500 l. Sterling, to be applied under the direction of the uſual managers of the poor, for the behoof of the indigent living within a certain diſtrict of the pariſh, ſpecially named in the deed of mortification. The above ſum was, early in this century, laid out in the purchaſe of land, which, by the laſt let, produces a revenue upwards of 70 l. Sterling *per annum*. There are no begging poor, and the heritors have never as yet been ſubjected to any aſſeſſment. The number upon the ſeſſion roll varies, but, in general, there are a dozen and upwards, who receive quarterly a ſmall contribution. The number entitled to the benefit of Mrs Muir's mortification alſo varies according to circumſtances.

Eminent Men.—Contiguous to the village of Rentoun, in the old houſe of Dalquhurn, was born the celebrated Dr TOBIAS SMOLLETT. He was the grandſon of Sir James Smollett of Bonhill, Bart. a gentleman of conſiderable property in this county, a member of the laſt Scotch Parliament, and a commiſſioner in framing the Union. The father of Tobias being a younger ſon, received, according to the cuſtom of his country, only a ſmall ſhare of Sir James's fortune, and, dying at an early period of life, left his family, conſiſting of two ſons and a daughter, in circumſtances not the

the moſt affluent. The two brothers received the rudiments of their education in the ſchool of Dumbarton. The elder, whoſe name was James, was bred a ſoldier, and amongſt his acquaintance was diſtinguiſhed for his addreſs, and thoſe talents of wit and humour, which afterwards characterifed Tobias. A premature death, (he having periſhed at ſea off the coaſt of America), robbed the world of thoſe talents, which, if ripened by time and ſtudy, might have ſhone forth with diſtinguiſhed luſtre. Tobias, the younger, was educated in the medical line, ſerved an apprenticeſhip to a ſurgeon in Glaſgow, and ſoon after acted as mate aboard a man of war. In this capacity he was preſent at the ſiege of Carthagena, the particulars of which he deſcribes in *Roderick Random* with ſo much life. Tobias could not long continue in this ſituation. His aſpiring genius diſdained the drudgery to which his profeſſional line expoſed him. He was a man of the moſt poliſhed manners, and fineſt addreſs, talents which ſeldom fail to recommend the phyſician. But with theſe he poſſeſſed a pride which counteracted their influence. He could not ſtoop to that inſinuating flattery ſo prevalent in the world, of which even the wiſe and knowing have often become the dupes. His mind was chiefly turned to the ſtudy of life and manners, in delineating which he is perhaps ſurpaſſed by few. In this particular, as a painter of life and character, he has reflected the higheſt honour upon the place of his nativity, and muſt ever be conſidered by his country among the firſt of her ſons in literary reputation. As a hiſtorian, he may be inferior to Hume and Robertſon in refinement of thought, and political obſervation; but when the ſubject leads to deſcription, or to the delineation of character, his powers appear unrivalled. To the greateſt genius, he joined the moſt unremitting application. One proof of this cannot fail to be noticed, which is, that in leſs than 14 months he

he collected materials, compoſed, and prepared for the preſs, his whole Hiſtory of England: An effort to which his narrow and ſtraitened circumſtances might have directed him, but to which nothing but the moſt diſtinguiſhed abilities, and the moſt vigorous application, could have been equal. He married a Jamaica lady, and by her had an only daughter, who was cut off in the bloom of youth. After a life chequered by a variety of incidents, he died at Leghorn, whither he had gone for the recovery of his health, in 1771, in the 51ſt year of his age. Adjacent to the place of his nativity, a column was lately raiſed to his memory by his couſin, with the following inſcription:

Siſte viator!
Si lepores, ingeniique venam benignam;
Si morum calidiſſimum pictorem,
Unquam es miratus,
Immorare paululum memoriae
TOBIÆ SMOLLETT, M.D.
Viri virtutibus hiſce
Quas in homine et cive,
Et laudes et imiteris,
Haud mediocriter ornati;
Qui in literis variis verſatus,
Poſtquam, felicitate ſibi propria,
Seſe poſteris commendaverat,
Morte acerba raptus,
Anno aetatis 51.
Eheu! quam procul a patria,
Prope liburni portem in Italia,
Jacet ſepultus:
Tali tantoque viro, patrueli ſuo,
Cui, in decurſu, Lampada

Se

Se potius tradidiſſe decuit,
Hanc columnam.
Amoris eheu! inane monumentum,
In ipſis Leviniae ripis
Quas, verſiculis, ſub exitu vitae, illuſtratas,
Primis, infans, vagitibus perſonuit,
Ponendam curavit
JACOBUS SMOLLETT de Bonhill.

Antiquities.—A little weſt of the Leven, upon a ſmall eminence called *Caſtle-hill* ſtood, it is ſaid, a caſtle, at times the reſidence of King Robert Bruce. In this caſtle, of which no veſtige is now diſcernible, that favourite prince, as hiſtory and tradition informs us, breathed his laſt. A farm in the neighbourhood ſtill pays to the ſuperior a feu-duty called *dig-meal.* This tax is ſuppoſed to have been originally impoſed for the maintenance of his Majeſty's hounds.

Character.—The people in general are ſober and induſtrious. The introduction of manufactures has, no doubt, produced ſome change in their habits and manners; and whether this change may operate more in the end to their advantage or hurt, time alone can determine.

NUM-

NUMBER XVI.

ISLAND AND PARISH OF SHAPINSHAY.

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY AND ZETLAND.—PRESBYTERY OF NORTH ISLES.—SYNOD OF ORKNEY.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE BARRY, *Miniſter.*

Origin of the Name.

FROM whence the name of this pariſh has been derived, cannot be determined with any degree of certainty. There is, however, no improbability in ſuppoſing it to come from the word *ay* or *ey*, which, in the Norſe or Norwegian language, is ſaid to ſignify an iſland, and the name of that animal to which we are indebted for ſo conſiderable a part of our food and clothing. The animal here alluded to is the ſheep, for the breeding and paſturing of which the iſland has been reckoned rather remarkable, and therefore it has been, with ſome propriety, ſtiled *Shapinſhay*, or the Sheep-Iſland. But with more probability ſtill, it may perhaps be derived from the Saxon language. If we may credit the poet Claudian, the Saxons early inhabited this country, and had even the misfortune to bedew it with their blood. "*Ma-*"*duerunt Saxone fuſo Orcades.*" Among that people *ſha* or *ſhaw* ſignified a valley, and ſuch an one too as lies near the middle of the iſland in queſtion; and from the combination of the name ſheep with this word, the whole pariſh may have got the name of the Sheep Valley, or Shapinſhay. But waving

waving any farther conſideration of this point, as it is a matter of no great importance, we may obſerve, that it has been diſtinguiſhed by the name which it now bears for theſe ſeveral centuries. To ſupport this obſervation, we have the authority of Torfacus, and the authors ſpecified by him, and alſo of the celebrated Buchanan, who not only mentions the name of this iſland, but deſcribes its ſituation and extent with conſiderable accuracy. "*Littori propior Siapinſa paulum "ſe in orientem inflectens, ex adverſo Cracoviacae*, (Kirkwall), "*duo millia ſita, ipſa ſex millia longa.*"

Situation, Extent, Form, Diviſion, &c.—To the north of the eaſt part of the main-land, from which it is diſtant about one mile, and three from Kirkwall, this iſland extends almoſt in the form of a croſs, from Stromberry to Neſs, near 7 miles, and from the Galt to the foot of Shapinſhay, more than 5. The body of the croſs ſtretches from ſouth-weſt to north-eaſt, and the arms from ſouth-eaſt to north-weſt. Almoſt around the whole iſland, the ſhores are low, pretty level, and, to a conſiderable diſtance inland, covered with rich fields of graſs and corn. Towards the middle, the land riſes conſiderably higher; and as the hand of induſtry has never diſturbed its repoſe ſince the creation, it exhibits the appearance of a barren waſte, fit only for ſheep paſture.

Ancient Cuſtom.—As all the lands on the ſhore are property, ſo the whole of the hill ground is commonty, and they are divided from each other by what is here called a *hill dyke*, a ſpecies of fence, it is believed, almoſt peculiar to this country. The period when this kind of fence was firſt in uſe in theſe iſlands is loſt in the miſt of antiquity. They are common through moſt of the iſlands. They are built of turf. They crumble down in winter, are repaired

again in the ſpring when the corn begins to riſe, and every proprietor, or his tenants, are compelled not only by the uſage of the place, but by bye-laws enacted for the purpoſe, to repair and keep up a part of the hill-dyke, proportioned to the extent of their farms, or his property. Theſe feeble fences, if they deſerve the name of fences, are intended to ſuperſede the neceſſity of herding domeſtic animals. Early in the ſummer, when the corn begins to ſpring, the young cattle, and particularly all the ſheep, are incloſed within them, rather to wander about than to feed, till the end of autumn. So long as the nights are ſhort, the weather mild, and the paſture tolerable, they continue within theſe limits without much reluctance; but when the ſeaſon advances, hunger and cold impel them to leap the dykes in purſuit of better nouriſhment, and more ſhelter. Inſtead of their being directed by the tender and attentive care of a ſhepherd, they are then attacked with ſticks and ſtones, and hunted by dogs, with more fury than is commonly uſed to ravenous beaſts in other countries. Hence theſe animals, which under proper management might be a ſource of wealth to the proprietors, and a benefit to the country at large, are decreaſing in number, and degenerating in quality ſo faſt, that in a ſhort time, if the mode of treatment is not altered, they will not be worth the raiſing. To protect theſe harmleſs, and very uſeful creatures from their various enemies, to watch over the young and the old, and the diſeaſed; and, upon occaſion, to lead them to proper ſhelter and paſture, ſo as to render their fleece and their carcaſe important objects of rural oeconomy, herding them is abſolutely neceſſary. So blindly attached, however, are the ordinary claſs of people here to antient cuſtoms, and ſuch rooted averſion have they to diſcover what ſtore they have to their landlords and to their miniſters, that no force of example, no influence of authority, no arguments

drawn

drawn from either humanity or from intereſt, can prevail with them to adopt a meaſure which in every reſpect appears ſo reaſonable. A proceſs is ſaid to be at preſent depending, which will in the iſſue certainly determine how far cuſtom, in regard to hill dykes, is to be conſidered as the law of the country. But in whatever way the law may determine this point, we, from a ſincere regard to the intereſts of the country, cannot help wiſhing that the cuſtom of the diſtrict, in regard to this matter, would yield to the ſtatute for herding of cattle.

Formerly there are ſaid to have been near 3000 ſheep in the iſland, and now, owing to a variety of cauſes, they do not exceed the half of that number. The black cattle amount to about 800, and the horſes only to 250, owing to an infectious diſorder having ſome years ago entered the pariſh, and in a few months carried off great numbers of them. As there are few evils but what produce ſome good, this diſorder, which the people at the time had good reaſon to conſider as a misfortune, may, it is likely, in the end, turn out to their advantage, in ſo far as it has compelled them, in ſpite of their averſion to novelties, to employ oxen inſtead of horſes. To the regret of all good farmers, ſwine are raiſed here in vaſt numbers; and what adds much to the evil, they are under the very worſt of management. In the ſummer ſeaſon they are driven to the hill with the ſheep and young cattle, where they commit depredations without moleſtation; and at the end of harveſt, when the fruits of the earth are removed, they come down in legions, fierce and hungry, and are allowed to roam at large around the ſhores, to the almoſt utter deſtruction of ſome of the beſt land of the iſland.

Agriculture.—The ſoil, though in moſt places thin and ſhallow, is naturally fertile, otherwiſe, conſidering the hurt it receives

receives from theſe deſtructive animals, and the clumſy awkward way in which it is cultivated, it would produce no ſort of crop whatever. Oats and bear alternately, however, it produces, as alſo pretty good potatoes, and formerly flax of a tolerable quality, was raiſed on it. To prepare the land for theſe crops, which are of the utmoſt conſequence to the inhabitants, as they make the principal part of their food, far too little attention is paid. Unacquainted with the mode of farming in a more favoured climate, the farmers are at no pains to make the direction of the ridges anſwer to the nature of the ſoil and the ſituation of the land; they never ſtraight nor raiſe them, nor water-furrow their ground, nor do they ever think of plowing it till within two or three weeks of ſeed time. The whole winter's induſtry is thus in a great meaſure loſt; the land loſes the benefit which it might receive from the froſt and ſnow; and, as the labour is not properly divided, but comes almoſt all on at one ſeaſon, this circumſtance obliges them to purchaſe more cattle, and maintain more ſervants than otherwiſe would be neceſſary. The plough which is in general uſed, is but ill calculated to obviate the diſadvantages that ariſe from unſeaſonable labouring. It has only one ſlender ſtilt, to which as ſlender a beam is fixed, and has neither reeſt nor mould-board; the ploughman holds it by this ſtilt, and directs it by a ſhort batton held looſe in his hand for that purpoſe. Defective as this inſtrument muſt appear, it has been honoured by a compariſon with the plough deſcribed by Virgil and Columella, as uſed by the Romans, to which it no doubt bears ſome reſemblance, and the parallel has been drawn between them with all the parade of pompous ignorance. But if the form of the plough be exceptionable, the mode of yoking the cattle is not leſs ſo. Inſtead of placing them in a line, or two and two together, as is common in the ſouth of Scotland, four of them,

whither

whither horſes or oxen be employed, are yoked a-breaſt, with a ſtraight pole fixed to all of their noſes, which the driver holds in the middle, and walks backwards before them. From the form of the plough, it is evident it can neither raiſe the furrow thoroughly, or what is called plow clear, nor turn it over perfectly, but muſt either ſuffer it to ſtand on the edge, or, what is much more common, to fall back with the ſurface uppermoſt. Their way of yoking their cattle, too, is ſubject to inconveniencies, for it muſt evidently hamper their motions and exertions, and thus render their work of leſs conſequence; the land muſt be poached with their feet, eſpecially near the furrows, and, as the driver is placed before them, and walks backwards, he can neither make them go faſt nor ſlow, nor direct them to the right hand nor to the left with any degree of facility.

To every intelligent farmer, it is an object of much importance to clear his land of thoſe weeds with which it is moſt infeſted, and the methods he makes uſe of for this purpoſe, are either to apply proper manure, to raiſe potatoes, turnip, and other green crops, or to exert himſelf in ſummer fallowing. Though our lands be overrun with almoſt every ſpecies of plants that tend to obſtruct the growth of corn, our ordinary little farmers are either ignorant of, or deſpiſe every one of theſe methods. They plow their little fields in ſpring, cover them with ſome ſea-weed, ſow them immediately, and as ſoon as the ſeed is committed to mother earth, they careleſsly fold their arms, ſatisfied they have done their duty, and leave the event to divine providence. Neither are they more enlightened or more induſtrious in regard to the uſe or the application of manures. Some of them have excellent marl almoſt for the lifting, and lime for the taking up and laying on their lands, at the ſole expence of the proprietor, and yet they will not

not be at the trouble to employ either the one or the other, though they have been repeatedly told what wonderful effects they have produced in fertilizing the ſoil in other parts of the kingdom. Even the dung of their cattle, which is at their hand, and which is ſo generally conſidered as an excellent manure, rather than be at the pains to carry to their fields, they in ſome places throw into the ſea, by way of a peace offering to Neptune, in order to render him propitious in caſting a-ſhore for them plenty of ſea-weed, which is the only ſubſtance they conſider as a valuable manure. As they have been accuſtomed, time out of mind, to ſow the grain they have raiſed on their own farms, no arguments can prevail with them to change their ſeed; and, what is far worſe, they have conceived an opinion that ſeed, however ill ripened and ill dreſſed, however light and bad it may be, will produce a crop in every reſpect as good as what would have been produced by the very beſt ſeed of the country.

Under all theſe, and ſome other diſadvantages, the Orkney Iſlands, in ordinary years, produce as much grain as is ſufficient to maintain about 24,000 inhabitants, after ſetting aſide near one third of the crop as feu-duty, which is frequently carried out of the kingdom. A more ſubſtantial proof cannot be brought of the fertility of any country, than its producing, at a moderate price, even under bad cultivation, as much as is neceſſary for its own conſumption. This is certainly the caſe with ours, for we have, in ordinary years, malt at 10 s. per boll, oat meal at half a guinea, and bear meal at 8 s. Sterling.

From this general charge of bad farming, we muſt exempt moſt of our gentlemen, as well thoſe that rent farms from others, as thoſe that are their own property. Some of them continue, in a great meaſure, the old plan, intermixing it

now

now and then with ſuch alterations and improvements as are ſuggeſted by reading, by experience, and obſervation; while others, unſhackled by prejudice, have adopted a mode which is in every reſpect rational as well as uſeful, which in time muſt have influence in the way of example, and which, conſidering the circumſtances of the country and climate, would do them no diſcredit among the moſt intelligent farmers. In this laſt claſs may juſtly be ranked the only reſiding heritor of this pariſh, who, in the ſpace of 7 or 8 years that he has poſſeſſed the eſtate, has totally changed the face of that part of the iſland. Previous to his purchaſe, nothing was to be ſeen over its whole extent, but a dreary waſte, interſperſed with arable lands ill cultivated, a few miſerable hovels thinly ſcattered over its ſurface, under the name of farm houſes or cottages, which were not fit to ſhelter from the rigours of the climate a few ragged inhabitants, dirty through indolence, lean with hunger, and torpid by deſpair. Every thing on this eſtate now happily wears a very different and more pleaſant aſpect. An elegant houſe has been built, and an extenſive garden laid out; the lands are ſubſtantially incloſed, and judiciouſly cultivated with the Engliſh plough; many barren fields are, by cultivation, made fertile; ſummer fallowing, with a change of ſeed and rotation of crops, is introduced with good effect; and the ſoil, which formerly bore with reluctance coarſe graſs, and ſcanty heather, and puny oats and bear, now chearfully produces oats, rye, barley, peaſe, wheat, potatoes, clover, and turnips, in conſiderable quantity and of a good quality. Together with theſe improvements, the ſame gentleman has erected a little village by the ſide of the harbour of Elwick, in which he has placed joiners, carpenters, weavers, tailors, ſhoemakers, coopers, and labourers of various ſorts, furniſhed them with work ſufficient to employ them; and thus enabled

enabled them from the fruits of their industry to marry early, and to produce numerous families. In short, Cliffdale, which is the name of this gentleman's seat, taken in conjunction with its appendages, exhibits to the eye of a stranger coming from the sea, or from Kirkwall, rather the appearance of a neat little villa in the vicinity of some opulent city, than of a gentleman's house recently raised in a remote sequestered part of the kingdom. That the former proprietor did not make some, or all of these improvements upon the estate, while it was in his hands, was neither owing to his want of sense nor of virtue, for he had a large share of both; but to his being obliged to live at some distance, in order to discharge the duties of a troublesome office, which required all his attention, and of his wanting the means of exciting and rewarding industry, by the expences he incurred in maintaining a numerous family. The heritors of this parish are, the Crown for the bishops lands, of which Sir Thomas Dundas is tacksman; Robert Laing, Esq; of Strennie, and Major Balfour of Elwick, who together possess the whole island. This parish formerly made part of the temporality of the bishopric of Orkney. The estates of Sound, and How, and Hammer, the former the property of Major Balfour, and the latter of Mr Laing, are feus from the bishops of Orkney. How is the seat of Mr Laing, where he has an old house pleasantly situated amidst rich corn fields and fine grass; and which, were he to reside there, and turn his attention towards improvement, might soon be made one of the most fertile and pleasant spots in Shapinshay. In the neighbourhood of this place he has had lime kilns for many years past, by which he has put in motion a considerable quantity of industry. The lime is prepared from stones which contain about one half of calcareous matter, and are blown by gun-powder from rocks under the high water mark, and the produce, amounting some seasons

to

to 3000 barrels, finds a ready market and a good price through the iſland, particularly in Kirkwall.

As no meaſurement of this pariſh has ever been taken, the proportion which the uncultivated lands bear to thoſe that are cultivated, cannot be aſcertained with any degree of exactneſs; but the latter, it is certain, have been divided into penny lands, and the rental of the iſland is ſaid not to exceed 600 l. Sterling.

Church, Miniſter, &c.—The church was built in 1630, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and bears the name of Lady Kirk. The manſe was erected in 1760. The ſtipend, with the profits of the glebe, may amount to about 90 l. Sterling; and beſides the preſent incumbent, who was ſettled 12th September laſt, there have only been two miniſters of Shapinſhay, namely, Meſſrs Alexander Niſbet, and Alexander Pitcairn, ſince the Revolution. In the new erection and foundation of the chapter, made by Biſhop Reed, no mention whatever is made of the miniſter of this pariſh, as among the ſeven dignitaries, or ſeven canons and prebends that compoſed this chapter. The miniſter of South Ronaldſhay was provoſt or dean; the miniſter of Birſay archdeacon; the miniſter of Orphir precentor; the miniſter of Sanda chancellor; the miniſter of Stronſay treaſurer; the miniſter of Iſlay ſub-dean; and the miniſter of Walls ſub-chantor.

Antiquities.—The genius of ſuperſtition has been as active here in antient times, as in moſt other places; for we find it has been employed in raiſing ſeveral little chapels in various parts of the pariſh. What good purpoſe they could ſerve, it is not very eaſy to imagine, eſpecially when built, as they ſometimes were, on holms or uninhabited iſlands. In

Elhardholm, which is a place of that kind, and connected with, and belonging to this pariſh, there is one of theſe chapels, that in every reſpect reſembles the other inſignificant buildings of the ſame nature ſo much, as not to deſerve a particular deſcription. On the higheſt ground, and near the center of the pariſh, there is, as in moſt of the other iſlands, a wart or ward-hill, which commands an accurate and extenſive view, not only of this, but of 15 ſurrounding pariſhes. To me this appears plainly to be artificial, and though one of the largeſt kind, is certainly one of thoſe tumuli which are ſo frequently to be met with in theſe iſlands. Theſe tumuli, or little mounds of earth, ſeem to have been raiſed to cover the dead bodies, and perpetuate the memories of diſtinguiſhed perſons; for in almoſt every one of them that has been opened, there have been found bones, and ſometimes burnt earth, and not unfrequently urns containing half burnt bones and aſhes. In ſupport of this opinion we may have recourſe to Tacitus and Verſtigan, who inform us that both the ancient Romans, and Germans, and Saxons, obſerved the cuſtom of laying their dead bodies on the ground, and raiſing over them heaps of earth, covered with turf, in the form of little hillocks. To the eaſtward of this little wart or ward-hillock about an Engliſh mile, is a high ſtone, called the *Standing Stone of Shapinſhay*. Above the level of the ground it is 12 feet high, and perhaps 5 or 6 below it; its breadth is between 4 and 5 feet; its thickneſs a foot and a half; and from its being clothed in moſs or ſcruf, it has a very venerable majeſtic aſpect, and ſeems to have weathered many ages. In both its form and dimenſions, it very much reſembles ſtones that are found ſtanding in many of the other iſlands, particularly, the circle and ſemicircle in the pariſh of Stennes; and it has perhaps been erected either as a place of worſhip, or ſacrifice, or to be a monument of ſome ſignal battle

battle or victory, or to preſerve the memory of ſome celebrated hero who had fallen in the field of battle. Towards the north ſide of the iſland, and by the ſea-ſide, is another large ſtone, called the Black Stone of *Odin*. Inſtead of ſtanding erect, like the one above mentioned, it reſts its huge ſide on the ſand, and raiſes its back high above the ſurrounding ſtones, from which it ſeems to be altogether different in quality. How it has come there, for what purpoſe, and what relation it has borne to the Scandinavian god with whoſe name it has been honoured, not only hiſtory or record, but even tradition is totally ſilent. As the bay in a neighbouring iſland is diſtinguiſhed by the name of Guuden, or the Bay or Guo of Odin, in which there is found dulce that is ſuppoſed to prevent diſeaſe and prolong life; ſo this ſtone might have had ſanctity formerly which is now forgotten, when the only office that is aſſigned it is to ſerve as a march-ſtone between the ware ſtrands or kelp ſhores of two conterminous heritors. On the weſt ſhore, oppoſite nearly to the rock or ſkerry of Vaſa, where the tides are rapid and the ſea is ſhallow, we meet with a place known by the name of Grucula or *Agricola*. Thither, tradition reports, one of Agricola's ſhips, in his celebrated voyage around the iſland of Britain, was driven by violence of weather, and ſtranded; and what ſeems to evince that the tradition is founded on truth is, that Roman coins are ſaid to have been found here, by the late Mr Fea of Cleſtron. Though Agricola's ſon-in-law, Tacitus, not only mentions his having been in theſe iſlands, but alſo his having conquered them, and diſcovered Thule, till then involved in darkneſs, and covered with ſnow, no ſuch diſaſter is deſcribed by his ſtrong and elegant pencil. From his ſilence, however, we cannot juſtly infer the event never happened, eſpecially as he mentions the Orkneys in ſuch a rapid and ſuperficial manner.

" *Hanc*

"*Hanc oram novissime maris tunc primum Romana classis circum-*
"*vecta, insulam esse Britaniam affirmavit, ac simul incognitas*
"*ad id tempus insulas quas Orcades vocant, invenit, domuitque,*
"*dispecta est et Thule quam hactenus nix et hiems abdebat.*" But the most remarkable pieces of antiquity in this, and indeed in the other islands, are those large ruins commonly denominated *Pict-houses*. Here they are frequently met with along the sea shore, two or three of them at no great distance from, and in general raising their conical heads in view of each other. They are situated, for the most part, on the most pleasant spots; they are covered with green, and ornamented with flowers and herbs of various sorts; and such of them as have been examined by the eye of curiosity, have discovered considerable variety in both their form and dimensions. Most of them are circular; some of them verging towards an oval shape; some of them are very large, others of a smaller size; in general they are built without cement, in some few instances with it; and, from the remains of the most entire of them, it would appear that they are wide at the foundation, and are contracted as they advance upwards, somewhat in the form of a kiln, and that they were closed or covered at the top is probable. The inside of such of them as we have seen, however, is divided into a great number of apartments, many of which seem to be of a very whimsical and inconvenient form, and all of them are so small as to be unfit for any permanent accommodation for man. To what purpose, therefore, has such a quantity of labour been wasted, in erecting such large and massy piles, and that at a period when industry was certainly not ranked among the number of the virtues? As there was a time, perhaps, when each of these islands, especially of the larger kind, was a state within itself, governed by its own prince or its own chieftain, these buildings might have been erected as forts to

defend

defend the inhabitants againſt invaders. On theſe the men might have taken their ſtations, and annoyed the boats attempting to land with their arrows, or ſink them with darts, ſtones, or other miſſile weapons; and to ſhew that this opinion is not entirely founded in fancy, theſe ruins are moſt frequently to be met with near bays, beaches, or other landing places. From their internal ſtructure, conſiſting of a variety of little cells, there is no abſurdity in ſuppoſing they have been intended as places of ſecurity for treaſures, for the moſt valuable furniture, and for proviſions. Thither they might bring theſe articles, and whatever elſe they put the greateſt value on, depoſit them with care, and, collecting their force around, defend them to the utmoſt extremity. In thoſe that have been dug up, there have always been found half burnt ſtones and earth, together with a conſiderable quantity of aſhes, and many human bones, and the bones of various other animals. From this circumſtance, we may be allowed to conjecture that they have in the early ages, long before the practice of burying in church-yards, ſerved as ſepulchral monuments for princes, chieftains, heroes, and other diſtinguiſhed perſons. But whatever was the view, with which they were at firſt erected, and to whatever purpoſes they were afterwards applied, they are very numerous through the iſlands in this country, and are ſometimes to be met with on the coaſt of Caithneſs. Of the ſame nature with them, perhaps, were the buildings named Danes Raths in Ireland. Ware, in his antiquities of that kingdom, informs us, that Turgoſius the Norwegian, in the year 835, raiſed theſe round works or fortifications, which are yet to be ſeen in many parts of Ireland. The Cartilla Brigantum, mentioned by Juvenal in his fourteenth Satyr, were probably of the ſame kind. Near Cliffdale, ſome ſhort time ago, when the workmen were digging for the foundation of a houſe, they diſcovered

vered a ſubterraneous building of a ſingular nature. It had been formed by digging the earth about 3 feet deep, and erecting pillars of ſtones built one upon another to the height of 4 feet, to ſupport a flat roof of broad ſtones or flags that covered the whole building, which was compoſed of two hexagons contiguous to one another, and their diameter about 8 feet, and of a rectangle as large as both. As the whole fabric was conſiderably below ground, and no veſtige whatever to be ſeen on the ſurface, it perhaps has been uſed as a place for concealing various articles of value, for which it ſeemed well calculated. However that may be, there was found in it a gold ring of an uncommon conſtruction. The outſide of that ring was broad and large, compoſed as it were of three cords twiſted or plaited together; the inſide was much narrower, and pretty well fitted for the uſe of the finger. No inſcription whatever appeared on any part of it; and at the joining, inſtead of being ſoldered, it ſeemed to have been beaten together with a hammer. Near this place there were lead mines attempted to be wrought formerly; and the firſt ſpecimens of the ore were ſo promiſing, that a company in the ſouth granted their obligation to the proprietor for 500l. a-year, in order to obtain his permiſſion to work them. The ſum ſtipulated procured his conſent; they began with ſpirit, and advanced a conſiderable length, when either their affairs went into diſorder, or they found that the veins went too deep, or in the direction of the ſea, or that the ore did not prove ſo rich as it promiſed, which conſtrained them to relinquiſh the undertaking.

Harbour.—The harbour of Elwick, which is the only one that belongs to this iſland, is as excellent for its extent as almoſt any one in this country. In this harbour, as well as around all the coaſt, it is high water at three quarters of an hour

hour after 9 o'clock, when the moon is new and full. It has from 4 to 6 fathom water, over a bottom of hard clay covered with ſand. On the weſt ſide of it is a fine beach, with abundance of excellent freſh water; and as it opens to the ſouth weſt, it is extremely convenient for ſhips bound to the ſouthward. In antient times it ſeems to have been called Elidarwick; for we are informed by an Icelandic manuſcript, lately tranſlated, that Haco king of Norway, 1263, lay with his fleet in a harbour of that name, near Kirkwall, in his way to the Hebrides or weſt of Scotland. He had planned an expedition againſt Alexander III. king of Scotland, and after he had lain in this harbour till St. Olave's Wake, he ſailed ſouth before the Mull of Ronaldſha, with all his navy.

Induſtry and Manufactures.—The boats belonging to this place are about 80, moſt of which are engaged in fiſhing, and in carrying the rents and feu-duties, which are paid in kind, to Kirkwall, except about 20, that are the property of Major Balfour, who frequently employs them otherwiſe. The ſame gentleman has 8 veſſels, 4 brigs and 4 ſloops, that are almoſt conſtantly employed in the trade of this country, and require 50 ſailors to work them. Beſides cultivating their little farms, and preparing the produce of them for their landlords and for the market, the men are employed in fiſhing what are called *fillocks* for their daily ſupport, and the women in ſpinning tow and linen yarn for ſale, and in working up the wool of their ſheep, which is of an excellent quality, for clothing to themſelves and their families. There are few tradeſmen in the pariſh, except thoſe in the village lately erected on the banks of the harbour of Elwick. Their induſtry is not only beneficial to themſelves, but to others in the way of example, and to the public at large, by enabling them to rear numerous families. The ſummer months are occupied

occupied in burning kelp, which is the great manufacture of this country. The men almoſt of the whole iſlands, and many of the women, alſo exert themſelves in this ſpecies of induſtry; and their joint efforts ſome ſeaſons produce upwards of 3000 tons, which, at a moderate rate, brings near 20,000 l. to the inhabitants. As it occupies the induſtry, and conſtitutes the principal part of the riches of the place, every attention ſhould be given it by thoſe that are friends to their country. The proprietors of lands, and their tenants and cottars, the tradeſmen in the towns of Kirkwall and Stromneſs, as well as in the country places, and merchants or ſhopkeepers every where, derive from it much benefit. To them only who have ſtated ſalaries it is detrimental, by increaſing the quantity, and thereby diminiſhing the value of money, and without adding to the ſtock, raiſing the price of proviſions. Its being extremely uſeful, however, will ſerve as an apology for our conſidering its nature, the purpoſes to which it is applied, the mode of manufacturing it, and the means by which that mode may be improved.

Kelp.—Kelp is compoſed of the aſhes of various ſea plants, cut from the rocks, or collected on the beach, and burnt in kilns or pits made on the ſhore for that purpoſe. It conſiſts chiefly of *the fixed vegetable alkali*, in a conſiderably cauſtic ſtate, never altogether pure, but intermixed with other ſalts, and particularly with Glauber's ſalts, and muriated and vitriolated magneſiae. The fixed vegetable alkali is the only valuable part of the kelp, and to it the other 3 kinds of ſalt are found to bear but a ſmall proportion; they do not hurt it materially in the manufactures in which it is uſed, and if they did hurt it, a ſeparation from them could, with no great difficulty, be obtained. If it is pure, or nearly ſo, it anſwers every purpoſe of the pureſt pot-aſhes, which is a lixivial ſalt, obtained

tained by the burning of wood, and which can be obtained only at a very high price, and from a foreign country. In that caſe it ſupplies its place in bleaching, in the manufacture of ſoap, of allum, of glaſs, and perhaps is neceſſary in ſome other of the moſt important manufactures of Britain. The whole tribe of ſea-weeds is capable, by burning, to produce kelp; but what are made uſe of here for that purpoſe are the four following ſorts: 1*ſt*, The tangle, (*Fucus Digitatus*, Lin.), the top of which is here called red ware, whoſe roots are fixed in the rocks, and are very ſeldom left dry even at the loweſt ſpring tides. 2*dly*, The ſea-oak, (*Fucus Veſiculoſus*, Lin.), which we denominate black tang, and which grows next to the former, nearly at the loweſt ebb. 3*dly*, The knotted ſea-weed, (*Fucus Nodoſus*, Lin.), or, as it is ſometimes called, the bell-wrack, and here the yellow tang, which in general occupies the middle ſpace between the low and high water marks. 4*thly*, The jagged or ſerrated ſea-weed, (*Fucus Serratus*, Lin.), commonly known by the name of prickly tang in this country. Theſe four kinds of ſub-marine plants, with ſome others of leſs conſequence, are cut from the rocks in the ſummer ſeaſon with hooks, carried up on barrows to the beach, where they are ſpread to dry, and are afterwards burnt into aſhes. The kilns that are made uſe of for this purpoſe, are either erected with ſtones on the ſand, or dug in the beach, of a circular form, and about 12 inches deep and 4 feet broad. In theſe they make holes for the free circulation of the air while they are burning, and after they have continued to burn till they imagine they have about one third of a tun of kelp, they begin to ſtir it ſtrongly, or to rake it with a clumſy inſtrument of iron formed for the purpoſe. Much of the excellence of the kelp depends on the perfection of this operation. Great care muſt be taken to keep it free of ſand, of ſtones, and of every ſort of extra-

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neous matter. The contents of the kiln muſt be made perfectly liquid, and ſomewhat reſembling the metal in a furnace; and in this ſtate it is ſometimes very difficult to preſerve it of the requiſite purity. The liquid requires to be left in the pit to cool, which it generally does in about two days, when it congeals and hardens into a ſolid ponderous maſs, which is broken and piled up on the ſhore, till an occaſion occurs to ſhip it for the market. In a manufacture of ſo great importance as that of kelp, every attempt ſhould be made to meliorate its quality. This, it is believed, may be done by cutting the ſea-weeds ſomewhat earlier in the ſeaſon, and allowing them to lie as ſhort time on the ſhore to dry as poſſible, making the kilns ſo much larger as to burn a greater quantity of kelp at a time; and of ſuch a conſtruction as to prevent the intermixture of other materials, by raking it thoroughly into a liquid ſtate, and by conveying it from the kilns, as ſoon as it is cold, to a ſtore-houſe, to ſhelter it from the hurtful influence of the weather. To increaſe its quantity is alſo an object of importance, and to do it in ſome meaſure there is little difficulty. The plants on the rocks that afford this article, are ſeldom cut with ſufficient care; they are burnt only every two or three years, when they might be burnt annually; too little attention has been beſtowed on the cutting of tangle and red ware, and carrying it a-ſhore in nets and boats conſtructed for the purpoſe; nor has almoſt any perſon in this place attempted to extend the ſoil for theſe plants, by placing broad weighty ſtones, or even wrecked wood, on the ſhores, in convenient ſituations. Were theſe circumſtances attended to, and the practice hinted at followed, our kelp ſhores, which yield at preſent ſo conſiderable a treaſure, might nearly double the quantity. This pariſh produces every year about 120 tons,

and,

and, trifling as this quantity may appear, it has a conſiderable influence on the condition of the people.

Population.—The number of our people, in 1755, was only 642, and amounts now to 730, conſequently there is an increaſe of 88. The cauſe of this increaſed population, we are able to trace to the reſidence of a ſingle proprietor. Among the people in a country pariſh, whoſe farms are ſmall and whoſe tacks are only verbal, the reſidence of heritors, if they be men of ſenſe and virtue, is of the greateſt advantage. They ſilence diſputes, and terminate any differences that may ariſe, by their authority; they ſet an example of induſtry, and by their ſmiles or their frowns, not only diſtinguiſh the deſerving from the worthleſs, but reward the one, while they puniſh the other. Beyond all diſpute, whatever promotes induſtry alſo promotes virtue; and whatever weakens vice and ſtrengthens virtue, has an evident tendency to promote population. Beſides theſe means, the proprietor alluded to has made uſe of others ſtill more effectual. Finding, on his entry, a paucity of hands for executing his plans of improvement, he ſoon erected between 20 and 30 new houſes, which are filled with young people that have married, and with families from other iſlands. Theſe have almoſt all of them numerous families of children; and, what is a clear evidence of their vaſt increaſe is, that about 17 years ago the youngeſt child in the ſmall diſtrict of Sound, was 13 years of age, and the ſame diſtrict contains now, at and below that age, about 70 children. As there has been no regiſter of deaths kept here, we cannot compare the births and deaths together, in order to aſcertain the extent of the increaſe; nor have the regiſters of the marriages and baptiſms, on account of the laſt miniſter's infirm ſtate of health for ſome time before his death, been brought down to the preſent period. From the

1781 to the 1790, both incluſive, however, the liſt of births and marriages is as follows:

	Births.			Marriages.
	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	
1781	15	11	25	4
1782	10	11	21	2
1783	7	8	15	3
1784	7	9	16	2
1785	6	13	19	1
1786	13	12	25	1
1787	7	9	16	2
1788	8	9	17	5
1789	12	14	26	10
1790	9	12	21	11

As there is plenty of excellent peat in the pariſh, as the air is wholeſome, and food is in tolerable abundance, the people live long; and, what is of far more conſequence, they are, even at an advanced age, both vigorous and healthy. In proof of this, we may obſerve, that there are ſeveral above 90, ſome of whom work every day in boats and otherways; and that laſt harveſt, which was no leſs long than rainy, ſome that were between 80 and 90 years of age, were employed conſtantly in the laborious taſk of ſhearing. To the ſame purpoſe it may be obſerved, that a gentleman of curioſity, ſome ſhort time ago, wrote to a woman in this pariſh to know her age, as he had been informed it was uncommon; the woman was no leſs diſtinguiſhed for her good ſenſe than her veracity, and wrote him for anſwer, that ſhe was born 1688. She ſpecified many remarkable events, which ſhe diſtinctly remembered; and concluded her letter by informing him, that although ſhe was at that time 97, ſhe had written

ten it without ſpectacles. To conclude, in order to give this pariſh the degree of proſperity of which it is capable, the heritors ſhould reſide on their eſtates, and by the combined influence of their money, their authority, and example, point out to them the road to happineſs. The farms, which at preſent are too ſmall, ſhould be 2 or 3 of them joined into one; tacks of conſiderable length ſhould be granted; the rents and feuduties ſhould not be paid in kind, but in money; and ſervices of every ſort ſhould be aboliſhed, with a view to induce men of ſubſtance and induſtry to become farmers. If, to theſe improvements, a better mode of agriculture were added, and were the people that could be ſpared from the making of kelp, and the cultivation of the ground, employed in fiſhing, and ſome beneficial manufacture, Shapinſhay would ſoon raiſe her head high among her ſiſter iſles, and would not ſuffer by a compariſon with almoſt any other iſland belonging to Scotland.

NUM-

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF LUSS.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON.—SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN STUART, *Miniſter.*

Situation, Extent, Erection, and Disjunctions.

THE pariſh of LUSS is ſituated in the county and preſbytery of Dumbarton, and in the ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. It is about 8¼ Engliſh miles long from S. to N. and from 2½ to 5 miles broad. It is bounded on the ſouth by the pariſhes of Bonhill and Cardroſs; on the north by the pariſh of Arrochar; on the eaſt by Lochlomond; and on the weſt by the pariſh of Row. It was formerly of great extent, reaching, on the weſt ſide of Lochlomond, from the one end of that lake to the other, and comprehending ſome of the lands on its eaſt ſide, together with moſt of its iſlands.

By an act of the Privy Council, in the year 1621, the lands of Buchanan were disjoined from this pariſh, and annexed to that of Inchcalloch. About the year 1650, the lands of Auchindennan, Cameron, Stockrogert, and Tullichewen were disjoined from it, and annexed to the pariſh of Bonhill. In 1658, the lands of Arrochar were disjoined from it, and formed into a ſeparate pariſh. But the lands of

of Caldanach, Preſtelloch, and Conglens, belonging once to the pariſh of Inchcalloch, are now annexed, *quoad omnia*, and the lands of Bannachrae, belonging properly to the pariſh of Row, are conſidered as annexed, *quoad ſacra*, to that of Luſs.

Soil, Surface, Climate, Longevity, and Diſeaſes.—The ſoil is in general light and gravelly, but in ſome parts there is good loam. The principal level land lies near Lochlomond, and chiefly where the rivers diſcharge themſelves into it, formed probably in the courſe of ages, by the ſand and ſoil carried down from the higher grounds by the torrents. Scarcely one twelfth of the ſurface is arable. The greateſt part is hilly and mountainous. The climate is mild and temperate. Snow ſeldom lies many days on the low grounds. In ſevere winters, the degree of cold has been found to be conſiderably greater near Glaſgow and Edinburgh than in this country. Hollies, and other plants in the hedges and gardens, have there been killed by the froſt, when here they remained unhurt. The mountains and woods break the force of the winds in every direction; and the exhalations from that part of the lake which never freezes, may perhaps likewiſe ſerve to temper the atmoſphere. The air, though often moiſt, is remarkably healthful. Many of the people live to a great age. The venerable liſt of old perſons, in the little village of Luſs, in 1769, is well known *. A man who reſided in it many

* Rev. Mr James Robertſon, miniſter, aged 90
Mrs Robertſon, his wife — — 86
Ann Sharp, their ſervant — — 94
Niel M'Naughtan, kirk-officer — — 86
Chriſtian Gay, his wife — — — 94
Walter Maclellan — — — 90

Pennant's Tour in 1769, 4*to. p.* 225.

many years, died in February 1790, aged 96. In 1793, the following were living in it:

Hector Maclean, aged — — —	91
Mary Macfarlane — — —	88
Janet Walker — — — —	84
Elizabeth Macwattie — — —	81
Margaret Macgregor — — —	80
Duncan Gray — — — —	78
There is one woman in the pariſh aged —	97

Some families in it ſeem to have a hereditary right to long life. There are two brothers and two ſiſters german in it, whoſe father was 96, and their mother 82 years old at their death, and whoſe ages, in 1793, when added together, made 310 years. The eldeſt of the brothers is ſtill in good health, and has at preſent alive 3 ſons and 4 daughters, 54 grand-children, and 10 great-grand-children. In 1793, there were likewiſe 4 ſiſters german living in the pariſh, whoſe ages together made 312 years. The people are ſubject to few diſeaſes. Fevers and conſumptions are the moſt common. The former of theſe are generally imported from other parts, and ſpread by infection.

Lake and Proſpects.—Lochlomond, either for extent, or variety and magnificence of ſcenery, is not perhaps to be equalled by any lake in Great Britain. Its beauties are ſo well known, and have already been ſo well deſcribed by others, as to make any new deſcription of them unneceſſary *. There are ſeveral fine views of them to be ſeen from the high road on each ſide of it, and from the adjacent heights, each of which has its admirers. Thoſe which are commonly reckoned beſt, are from the top of the higheſt hills in the

* *See* Pennant's Tours in 1769 and 1772, &c.

the iſlands of Inchtavanach and Inchmurren, the Strone hill near Luſs, and the point of Farkin; but, in order to have this laſt view in the greateſt perfection, it is neceſſary to aſcend conſiderably higher than the line of the road. Lochlomond is about 24 Engliſh miles long, in ſome parts above 7 miles broad, and contains above 20,000 acres of water. Its depth ſouth from Luſs ſeldom exceeds 20 fathoms, or 120 feet. North from that it is much greater. Oppoſite to the point of Farkin it is 66, and a little farther north 80 fathoms. For about a mile ſouth from Tarbet it is, with little difference, 86 fathoms; but about two miles north from it, oppoſite to Alt-garv, it is 100 fathoms, which is probably the greateſt depth of the lake. Beyond that its depth gradually diminiſhes to its north end. The north and deeper part of Lochlomond is never covered with ice; but ſouth from Luſs, in ſevere froſts, its ſurface has been ſo completely frozen, as to render it ſafe for men, and even for horſes and loaded ſleds, to go from each ſide to the different iſlands. It is remarkable, however, that part of the narrow ſound between the iſlands of Inchtavanach and Inchconagan, the average depth of which no where exceeds two fathoms and a half, and where there is no perceptible current, yet was never known to freeze, not even in the year 1740. This, perhaps, may be owing to ſome ſprings riſing there, fed by the adjacent high grounds. After great floods in winter, the ſurface of Lochlomond has been known to riſe about 6 feet higher than it is after much drought in ſummer. Its average height above the level of the ſea is 22 feet; but that it is now conſiderably higher than it once was, and is therefore gaining upon the ground, there is clear evidence. Acroſs the channel of the river Falloch, at the north end of the lake, there are ſtones fixed at regular diſtances, once evidently intended for enabling paſſengers to ſtep from one ſide to the

other, but now never covered with leſs than 4 or 5 feet depth of water. Near the middle of the Bay of Camſtraddan, when the water is low, there is a heap of ſtones to be ſeen, where the Colquhoun's of Camſtraddan are ſaid to have once had their family reſidence. Cambden, in his *Atlas Britannica*, deſcribes an iſland as exiſting there in his day, in which there was *a houſe and an orchard* *. About 5 miles farther ſouth, at a diſtance from the ſhore, there is another heap of ſtones, ſaid to be the ruins of a church. A field oppoſite to it is ſtill called *Ach-na-heaglais*, or the church-field. This riſe of the ſurface of the lake, is probably owing to the ſand and mud ſubſiding near the mouth of the Leven, and damming up the water.

Iſlands.—There are at preſent about 30 iſlands in Lochlomond, ſmall and great. Moſt of them are finely wooded. Some of them are inhabited, and prove, at times, commodious aſylums to the diſordered in mind. Ten of them are conſiderable in ſize; four of theſe belong to the pariſh of Luſs: 1*ſt*, *Inchtavanach*, above three quarters of an Engliſh mile long, and about two furlongs and a half broad, contains 135 Scotch acres, of which 127 are under a good oak wood, which is moderately valued at 1000 l. each cutting, once in 20 years. The remaining acres are outfield, and carry at times a good crop. The iſland is not at preſent inhabited. A monk is ſaid, at a remote period, to have fixed his reſidence there, from whom it derives its name of *Inch-ta-vanach*, *i. e. the iſland of the monk's houſe*. A ſweeter retirement, or more adapted for contemplation, he could not perhaps have choſen. 2*dly*, *Inchconagan*, ſituated on the eaſt ſide of Inchtavanach, and ſeparated from it only by a narrow ſound, above

* *See* Pennant's Tour in 1772, 4to, p. 155.

above half a mile long, and about two furlongs and a half broad, contains 94 acres, which are all under a natural oak and fir wood. 3*dly*, *Inchmoan*, *i. e. the moſs iſle*, lying a little to the ſouth of Inchconagan, about three quarters of a mile long and a quarter broad, contains 99 acres, moſtly of moſs, from which the village of Luſs and the neighbourhood are ſupplied with peats. 4*thly*, *Inchlonaig*, near a mile long, and above a quarter of a mile broad, contains 145 acres, 66 of which are under a natural wood of old yews. The whole iſland has for many years been kept as a deer park by the family of Luſs.

Phenomena.—Lochlomond has been long famed for three wonders, viz. *fiſh without fins*, *waves without wind*, and *a floating iſland*. Vipers, which abound in the iſlands, and are ſo far amphibious as to ſwim from one to another, are probably the *fiſh without fins*. A man of undoubted veracity, who lives in the village of Luſs, affirms that he has ſeen one of them attempt to get into a boat in which he was, and that it was inſtantly killed. A ſwelling *wave without* any *wind* perceptible at the time, is not peculiar to this lake. It may be obſerved, wherever there is a great extent of water, if a calm immediately ſucceeds a ſtorm. But independent of any commotion in the atmoſphere, at the time of the remarkable earthquake at Liſbon, in 1755, the water of Lochlomond roſe ſuddenly ſome feet above its former level, and was otherwiſe uncommonly agitated; and ſome phenomena of this kind, obſerved at a remote period, may have been the *wonder* alluded to. A ſmall iſland lying near the weſt ſhore of Inchconagan, is called *the Floating Iſland*. It is now, at leaſt, fixed there; but that it may have once floated is credible. In that caſe, it muſt probably have been a moſſy fragment, detached by the waves from the neighbouring iſle of

Inch-

Inchmoan, and kept together by the matted roots of coarse grasses, gales, or Dutch myrtles, willows, &c. In a small lake in the Highlands of Perthshire, a *floating island* of this kind actually exists *.

Rivers.—There are 4 rivers in the parish, all of which discharge themselves into Lochlomond, but none of them are remarkable for size; *1st*, The river *Froon*, which rises in Glenfroon, and enters into the lake near the south end of the parish. *2dly*, The river of *Finlass*. *3dly*, That of *Luss*. And, *4thly*, That of *Douglass*, which forms a great part of the boundary between the parishes of Luss and Arrochar.

Woods, &c.—There are 880 acres under natural wood. Of these there are about 700 almost entirely under oak woods, which have been usually cut down once in 20 years, and at last cutting produced about 14000 bolls of bark †. A cutting of the whole oak woods of that age, at an average of prices for 15 years past, may be valued at 7600 l. They are of such extent as to admit of their being properly divided into 20 separate *hags* or parts, one of which may be cut every year. The cutting commences about the beginning of May, or as soon as the bark can be easily peeled, and must be over before the middle of July. Formerly there was little attention paid to the manner in which the work was performed; but now care is taken that the trees shall be all cut down and peeled close to the ground, so as to make the young shoots rise as much as possible directly from the earth, and acquire roots of their own, independent of those of the parent stock. For the same purpose, in rough and high grounds,

* *See* Pennant's Tour in 1772, 4to. part II. p. 18.

† The boll of bark contains 10 stones Dutch weight.

grounds, burning the heath, or any bruſh-wood which can be collected about the ſtocks, is found to have an excellent effect. After the woods are cut, they are, for 5 or 6 years, carefully preſerved from cattle. At that period, at 10 or 12, and at 15 or 16 years of age, they are weeded or cleared from broom, briars, or whatever elſe is prejudicial to them, and properly thinned. The firſt weeding is much for the benefit of the wood, but makes no immediate returns to the proprietor. The hoops got at the ſecond will bear about one fourth of the expence; and at the third, will do ſomething more than clear the whole. Trees of every kind thrive in this country amazingly. An oak in the Bandry wood 96 years old, is 7 feet 3 inches in girth two feet above the ground, has in its trunk, which is 21 feet high, 45 ſolid feet of timber, and is computed to have 4 bolls of bark. Another oak near the houſe of Camſtraddan, which is about 80 years old, is 7 feet 2 inches in girth two feet above the ground, has in its trunk 36 feet of ſolid timber, and is computed to have 2½ bolls of bark. But the trees of the greateſt ſize in this pariſh are at Roſedoe. A yew tree there, at the height of 2½ feet above the ground is 12½ feet, and a ſycamore, at the ſame height, 13½ feet in girth. Their age is uncertain.

The natural woods of this country conſiſt of oak, aſh, yew, holly, mountain aſh, birch, hazel, aſpen, alder, crab, hawthorn, and willows. Oaks thrive only in dry ground. Aſhes abound on the banks of the lake and near rills of water. Yews are rarely found but in the iſlands. Hollies are ſcattered through the woods, and mountain aſhes often grow in elevated ſituations. The remaining kinds are leſs valuable, and frequently, therefore, diſtinguiſhed by the name of *barren timber*. The other indigenous plants are nearly the ſame as in other parts of the Highlands, in ſimilar ſoils and ſituations.

tions. A few are to be found, which are usually considered as rare; as, *isoetes lacustris*, or quillwort; *subularia aquatica*, or awlwort; *alisma ranunculoides*, or lesser water plantain; *osmunda regalis*, or flowering fern; *lichen Burgesii*, or crowned lichen, &c.

Wild Animals.—The following is a list of the wild animals, observed for some years past in this part of the country. The names of such as are migratory, are distinguished by an asterisk (*) before them.

I. QUAD-

I. QUADRUPEDS.

Latin Names.	*Engliſh.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
Cervus dama. Lin.	Fallow deer	———	*Fiadh*
Cervus capreolus. Lin.	Roe	———	*Earba*
Canis vulpes. Lin.	Fox	Tod	*Sionnach, balgaire*
Catus ſylveſtris. Klein.	Wild cat	———	*Cat fhiadhaich*
Urſus meles. Lin.	Badger	Brock	*Broc*
Martes abietum. Raii.	Pine martin	———	*Taghan*
Muſtela putorius. Lin.	Polecat	Foumart	*Fòclan*
Muſtela vulgaris. Klein.	Common weaſel	Whitret	*Neas*
Muſtela erminea. Lin.	Stoat, or ermine	———	———
Muſtela lutra. Lin.	Otter	———	*Dòran, dòr-chù*
Lepus timidus. Lin.	Common hare	Mawkin	*Maigheach*
Lepus hieme albus. Forſt.	Alpine, or white hare	———	*Maigheach gheal*
Mus rattus. Lin.	Rat	———	*Radan*
Mus amphibius. Lin.	Water rat	———	*Radan uiſge*
Mus ſylvaticus. Lin.	Field mouſe	———	———
Mus muſculus. Lin.	Common mouſe	———	*Luch*
Mus agreſtis. Lin.	Short-tailed mouſe	———	———
Sorex araneus. Lin.	Foetid ſhrew mouſe	———	*Dallag*
Talpa europaeus. Lin.	Mole	Modewart	*Famh, ùir-reathabh*
Erinaceus, europaeus. Lin.	Urchin	Hedge-hog	*Gràineag*
Veſpertilis murinus. Lin.	Common bat.	———	*Ialtag, dialtag.*

II. BIRDS.

Fringilla montifringilla. Lin.

II. BIRDS.—Land-Birds.

Latin Names.	*English.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
Falco fulvus. Lin.	Ringtail eagle	Black eagle	*Iolair dhubh*
Falco offifragus. Lin.	Sea eagle	——	*Iolair*
Falco Haliaetus. Lin.	Oſprey	——	*Iolair uiſge*
Falco milvus. Lin.	Kite	Glead	*Clamhan-gabhlach, croman-leobaidh*
Falco buteo. Lin.	Common buzzard	——	*Clamhan*
Falco aeruginoſus. Lin.	Moor buzzard	——	——
Falco cyaneus. Lin.	Henharrier	——	*An t-eun-fionn*
Pygargus accipiter. Raii.	Ringtail	——	*Bréid-air-tòin*
Falco tinnunculus. Lin.	Keſtrel	——	——
Falco ſubbuteo. Lin.	Hobby	——	——
Falco niſus. Lin.	Sparrow hawk	——	*Speir-ſheog*
Strix otus. Lin.	Long-eared owl	——	——
Strix ſtridula. Lin.	Tawny owl	——	——
Strix ulula. Lin.	Brown owl	Howlet	*Cumhachag, cailleach-oidhche*
Strix flammea. Lin.	White owl	——	*Cailleach-oidhcoe gheal*
* Lanius excubitor. Lin.	Great ſhrike	——	——
Corvus corax. Lin.	Raven	Corby	*Fitheach*
Corvus frugilegus. Lin.	Rook	Craw	*Creumhach,ròcus*
Corvus cornix. Lin.	Hooded crow	Hoody	*Fionnag*
Corvus pica. Lin.	Magpie	Piet	*Pioghaid*
Corvus glandaricus. Lin.	Jay	Jay-piet	*Sgriachag choille*
Corvus monedula. Lin.	Jackdaw	Daw	*Cathag*
* Cuculus canorus	Cuckoo	Gouk	*Cuthag, cuach*

Coil-

II. BIRDS.—Land birds.

Latin Names.	*Engliſh.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
* Alcedo iſpida. Lin.	Kingfiſher	———	———
Certhia familiaris. Lin.	Creeper	———	———
Tetrao tetrix. Lin.	Black Cock	———	*Coileach dubh*
Lagopus altera. Plinii. Raii. Syn.	Grous	Moor fowl	*Coileach-ruadh*
Tetrao lagopus. Lin.	Ptarmigan	———	*Tarmachan*
Tetrao perdrix. Lin.	Partridge	Pertrick	*Cearc-thomain*
Columba palumbus. Lin.	Ring dove	Cuſhet-dow	*Smùdan*
Turdus pilaris. Geſner.	Fieldfare	Feltifare	*Liatruiſg*
Turdus muſicus. Lin.	Throſtle	Maevis	*Smeòrach*
Turdus iliacus. Lin.	Redwing	———	———
Turdus merula. Lin.	Black bird	———	*Lon dubh*
Turdus torquatus. Lin.	Ring ouzel	———	*Dubh-chraige*
Sturnus cinclus. Lin.	Water ouzel	Water craw	*Gobha-uiſge*
* Ampelus garrulus. Lin.	Chaterer	———	———
Loxia pyrrhula. Lin.	Bullfinch	———	*Còrcan coille*
Loxia chloris. Lin.	Greenfinch	———	*Glaiſean darach*
Emberiza miliaria. Lin.	Common bunting	Buntling	*Gealag-bhuachair*
Emberiza citrinella. Lin.	Yellow hammer	Yellow yeldring	*Buidheag bhealaidh*
Emberiza ſchaeniclus. Lin.	Reed ſparrow	———	———
* Emberiza nivalis. Lin.	Snow bunting	Snow fleck	*Eun an t-ſneachdaidh*
Fringilla carduelis. Lin.	Goldfinch	Gold ſpink	———
Fringilla caelebs. Lin.	Chaffinch	Green lintwhite	*Bricean beatha*
Fringilla montifringilla. Lin.	Brambling	———	———

Latin Names.	*English.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
Fringilla domeſtica. Lin.	Sparrow	——	*Gealbhan*
Linaria. Geſner.	Linnet	Lintwhite	*Gealan-lin*
* Muſcicapa griſola. Lin.	Fly catcher	——	——
Alauda arvenſis. Lin.	Sky lark	Laverock	*Uiſeag*
Alauda arborea. Lin.	Wood lark	——	*Riabhag choille*
Alauda pratenſis. Lin.	Tit lark	Titling	*Riabhag mhonaidh*
Motacilla alba. Lin.	White wagtail	——	*Breac-ant-sìl*
Motacilla flava. Lin.	Yellow wagtail	——	——
* Motacilla phaenicurus. Lin.	Red ſtart	——	*Ceann-dearg*
Motacilla rubecula. Lin.	Red breaſt	——	*Broinn-dearg*
Motacilla trochilus. Lin.	Yellow wren	——	——
Motacilla regulus. Lin.	Golden creſted wren	——	——
Motacilla troglodytes. Lin.	Wren	——	*Dreathan*
* Motacilla Onanthe. Lin.	Wheat-ear	——	——
* Motacilla rubetra. Lin.	Whin-chat	——	——
Motacilla rubicula. Lin.	Stone-chatter	——	*Cloichearan*
* Motacilla ſylvia. Lin.	White throat	——	——
Parus major. Geſner.	Great titmouſe	——	——
Parus caeruleus. Geſner.	Blue titmouſe	Ox-eye	——
Parus ater. Lin.	Colemouſe	——	*Cailcheag chean-dubh*
Parus caudatus. Geſner.	Longtailed titmouſe	——	——
* Hirundo ruſtica. Lin.	Houſe ſwallow	——	*Gobhlan-gaoith*
* Hirundo riparia. Lin.	Sand martin	——	*Gobhlan-gainbhich*

Hirundo

II. BIRDS.—Land-Birds.

Latin Names.	*English.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
* Hirundo apus. Lin.	Swift	——	——
* Caprimulgus Europæus. Lin.	Goatſucker	——	——

Water-Fowls.

Latin Names.	*English.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
Ardea major. Lin.	Heron	——	*Corra riathach*
* Scolopax ruſticola. Lin.	Woodcock	——	*Coileach coille.*
Scolopax gallinago. Lin.	Common ſnipe	——	*Croman lòin*
Scolopax gallinula. Lin.	Jack ſnipe	——	——
* Tringa vanellus. Lin.	Lapwing	Teuchit, peeſweep	*Curcag, adharcan-luachrach*
* Tringa hypoleucos. Lin.	Common landpiper	——	——
* Charadrius morinellus. Lin.	Dotterel	——	*Amadan mòintich*
* Hæmatopus oſtralegus. Lin.	Pied oyſter-catcher	Sea-piet	*Gille-brìde*
* Rallus aquaticus. Lin.	Water Rail	——	——
* Colymbus criſtatus. Lin.	Great creſted grebe	——	——
* Colymbus minor. Briſſon.	Duſky grebe	——	——
Colymbus auritus. Lin.	Little grebe	——	*Spàg-re-tòin*
* Alca Arctica. Lin.	Puffin	Tom-noddy	*Fachach*
* Colymbus glacialis. Lin.	Northern diver	——	*Bur-bhuachaill*
* Colymbus immer. Lin.	Imber	——	——
* Mergus ſtellatus. Brunnich.	Speckled diver	Arran-ake	——

Colymbus

of Luſs.

† Pennant.

II. BIRDS.—Water-Fowls.

Latin Names.	*Engliſh.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
* Colymbus ſeptentrionalis. Lin.	Red-throated diver	——	——
Larus canus. Lin.	Common ſea mall	Sea-maw	*Faoileann*
Larus tridactylus. Lin.	Tarrock	——	——
Larus minuta. Lin.	Leſſer tern	——	*Steirneal*
* Mergus merganſer.	Gooſander	——	——
* Mergus ſerrator. Lin.	Red breaſted gooſander	——	*Sioltuiche*
* Mergus albellus. Lin.	The ſmew	——	——
* Anas Cygnus ferus. Lin.	Wild ſwan	——	*Eala*
* Anas anſer. Lin.	Wild gooſe	——	*Muir-gheadh*
* Anas clangula. Lin.	Golden eye	——	——
Anas boſchas. Lin.	Mallard	Common wild duck	*Lacha chinn uaine*
* Anas ferina. Lin.	Pochard	——	——
* Anas penelops. Lin.	Wigeon	——	——
Anas crecca. Lin.	Teal	——	*Crann-lacha*
Pelecanus Carbo. Lin.	Cormorant	——	——
Pelecanus graculus. Lin.	Shag	Skart	*Scarbh.*

III. REPTILES.

Latin Names.	*Engliſh.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
Rana temporaria. Lin.	Frog	Puddock	*Loſgann*
Rano bufo. Lin.	Toad	Tead	*Loſgan dubh*
Lacerta agilis. Lin.	Scaly lizard	Aſk	*Dearc-luachair*

Lacertus

III. REPTILES.

Latin Names.	*Engliſh.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
Lacertus vulgaris. Lin.	Brown lizard	——	——
Coluber Berus. Lin.	Viper	Adder	*Nathair*
Anguis fragilis. Lin.	Blind worm	——	——

IV. FISH.

Latin Names.	*Engliſh.*	*Scotch.*	*Gaelic.*
Lampetra. Raii.	Lamprey	Lamper-eel	*Deala-tholl*
Muraena anguilla. Lin.	Eel	——	*Eaſgann*
Pleuronectes Leviniae	Lochlomond flounder	Fluke	*Leabag*
Perca fluviatilis. Lin.	Perch	——	*Muc-lochaidh, creagag uiſge*
Salmo Salar. Lin.	Salmon	——	*Bradan*
Salmo trutta. Lin.	Sea-trout	——	*Gealag*
Salmo Fario. Lin.	Trout	——	*Breac*
Salmo Alpinus. Lin.	Charr	——	*Tarragheal*
Salmo Lavaretus. Lin.	Gwiniad †	Powan	*Pollag*
Salmulus. Raii.	Samlet	Parr	*Gobhlachan*
Eſox Lucius. Lin.	Pike	——	*Geat-iaſg*
Cyprinus Rutilus. Lin.	Roach	Braiſe	——
Cyprinus Phoxinus. Lin.	Minow	——	*Mion-iaſg.*

† PENNANT.

of Luſs.

Population.—According to the returns made to Dr Webster in 1755, compared with the population in March 1793, the number of souls in this parish has decreased within these 40 years.

Statistical Table of the Parish of Luss.

Souls, Families, Sexes, &c.

Population in 1755	978	Persons under 8 years of age	203
——— in 1793	917	—— above that age	714
Decrease	61	Married persons	280
Number of families	112	Widowers	15
Males	448	Widows	36
Females	469		

Conditions, Professions, &c.

Proprietors residing occasionally	1	Coopers	4
Ditto non-residing	2	Corn-millers	3
Clergymen	1	Lint-millers	1
Members of the Established Church	915	Flax-dressers	1
Seceders	2	Weavers	11
Schoolmasters	2	Taylors	3
Scholars	120	Shoemakers	4
Farmers	76	Journeymen and apprentices to weavers, taylors, and shoemakers	18
Innkeepers and retailers of spirits, ale, &c.	9	Male-servants	38
Excise officers	1	Female-servants	47
Shopkeepers	3	Poor	10
Smiths	2	Capital of their funds	L. 150
Masons	2	Annual income	L. 37
Carpenters and joiners	7	Boats	21
		Wheel-carriages	2

Carts

Carts - - 59 Ploughs* - - 57

Extent and Value of Property.

	A.	R.	F.
Number of Scotch acres arable -	1538	0	26.20
—— —— in meadow -	109	2	39.40
—— —— under paſture	14,873	3	31
—— —— woods -	880	1	33
Total acres†	17,402	1	9.60

Length in Engliſh miles - - -	8½
Average breadth in ditto - - -	3½
Valued rent in Scotch money -	L. 1500 0 0
Real rent in 1793, in Sterling ditto	1600 0 0

Value of Stock.

110	Draught horſes	at L.	10	10	0 each	L. 1155	0	0
4	Carriage horſes	——	30	0	0 ——	120	0	0
6	Saddle horſes	——	15	0	0 ——	90	0	0
20	Beſt cattle	——	8	0	0 ——	160	0	0
514	Inferior ditto	——	3	10	0 ——	1799	0	0
1875	Beſt ſheep	——	0	14	0 ——	1312	10	0
5625	Inferior ditto	——	0	10	6 ——	2953	2	6
8	Swine	——	0	15	0 ——	6	0	0
	Total value of ſtock					L. 7595	12	6

* Though the above number of ploughs is kept for the ſake of convenience, a much ſmaller number would be ſufficient for all the tillage of the pariſh.

† The number of acres, excepting in one farm, where they are computed from the produce and ſtock, is aſcertained by actual ſurveys made in the years 1770 and 1776.

ANNUAL

TABLE

ANNUAL PRODUCE.

Crops.	Number of bolls sown.	Produce per boll. B.	F.	P.	Total produce. B.	F.	P.	Price per boll. L.	s.	d.	Total value. L.	s.	d.
Oats	625	4	2	0	2812	2	0	0	15	0	2109	7	6
Bear	47	8	0	0	376	0	0	0	18	0	338	8	0
Peaſe	25	5	2	0	137	2	0	0	16	0	110	0	0
Potatoes	87	12	0	0	1044	0	0	0	9	0	469	16	0
					Stones.			Price per ſtone.					
Flax	—	—	—	—	84			0	14	0	58	16	0
Meadow hay, or natural graſs	—				13220			0	0	4	220	6	8
Sown graſs	—	—	—	—	14430			0	0	6	360	15	0
Straw, at 3 s. 6 d. per boll, of corn and bear					—	—	—	—			557	19	9
Paſture, at 2 l. per horſe, 1 l. per cow, and 2 s. per ſheep					—	—					1524	0	0
Annual produce of woods and plantations					—	—	—	—			400	0	0
——— ——— ſlate quarries					—	—	—	—			500	0	0
Total value of annual produce											L. 6649	8	11

TABLE OF MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, AND BURIALS,

From 1700 *to* 1719.

Years.	Marriag.	Baptisms.		
		Males.	*Fem.*	*Total.*
1700	6	15	12	27
1701	6	15	9	24
1702	8	4	5	9
1703	9	13	4	17
1704	7	8	14	22
1705	9	17	17	34
1706	8	11	13	24
1707	10	9	9	18
1708	15	12	11	23
1709	7	21	16	37
1710	8	20	16	36
1711	12	19	5	24
1712	12	12	15	27
1713	8	16	21	37
1714	10	8	24	32
1715	6	17	18	35
1716	12	17	11	28
1717	7	15	9	24
1718	12	3	9	12
1719	9	13	11	24
Total number for 20 years preceding 1720 —	181	265	249	514
Annual average	$9\frac{1}{20}$	$13\frac{5}{20}$	$12\frac{9}{20}$	$25\frac{7}{20}$

TABLE OF MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, AND BURIALS,

From 1774 *to* 1793.

Years.	Marriag.	Baptisms.			Bur.
		Males.	*Fem*	*Total.*	
1774	3	24	12	36	11
1775	11	20	14	34	12
1776	9	15	11	26	17
1777	9	17	13	30	10
1778	7	17	15	32	13
1779	10	16	10	26	5
1780	3	16	11	27	17
1781	12	15	14	29	17
1782	13	14	10	24	10
1783	5	14	16	30	10
1784	12	11	14	25	11
1785	11	15	14	29	12
1786	9	13	16	29	12
1787	11	12	9	21	7
1788	10	15	11	26	15
1789	4	14	17	31	11
1790	4	12	12	24	13
1791	4	13	21	34	12
1792	12	7	15	22	17
1793	11	15	13	28	8
Total number for 20 years preceding 1794	170	295	268	563	240
Annual average	$8\frac{5}{10}$	$14\frac{15}{20}$	$13\frac{2}{5}$	$28\frac{3}{10}$	12

From the foregoing table of marriages, baptisms, and burials, as recorded in the parish register, it appears that the population, for 20 years past, is not very different from what it was at the beginning of this century. About 35 years ago, upon the introduction of south country sheep, an union of farms took place, which, at the time, must have diminished

ſhed the number a little. But that loſs has ſince been more than compenſated, by the additional hands employed in the ſlate-quarries and other works.

Agriculture, Produce, and Imports.—The principal crops are oats, bear or big, and potatoes. Peaſe and flax are likewiſe raiſed, but in ſmaller quantities. Upon ſome of the farms, artificial graſſes have of late been cultivated with ſucceſs. Oats, peaſe, and flax, are ſown from the middle of March to the end of April, and bear from the end of April to the beginning of June. Potatoes are planted from the middle of April to the 10th of May. The crops are commonly reaped from the beginning of September to the beginning of October, and all got in before the middle of that month. But in unfavourable ſeaſons, the harveſt is ſometimes not over till the 10th of November. The pariſh does not ſupply itſelf with meal. About 200 bolls are annually imported.

Horſes and Black Cattle.—Few horſes are bred in the pariſh. They are generally bought at the different markets, for the purpoſes of agriculture. Cows are moſtly kept for the convenience of families. Beſides maintaining the ſtock, however, a few calves are fattened every year for the butcher, and ſome young cattle are reared for ſale.

Sheep.—The higher grounds are now ſtocked almoſt entirely with ſheep, of which there are about 7500. They are all of the black-faced Linton kind, and kept almoſt entirely for breeding, for which the nature of the paſture is more adapted than for fattening. A breeding ſtock of 600 ſheep, for taking care of which one good herd or ſhepherd is reckoned

koned ſufficient, commonly conſiſts, at Whitſunday, of the following proportions:

Breeding ewes - - - - -	500
Year old ewes, for ſupplying the place of older ewes	80
Tups - - - - - -	20
	600

STATEMENT OF THE YEARLY EXPENCE OF MANAGING A BREEDING STOCK OF 600 SHEEP.

To a herd's wages, paid commonly by the paſture of 60 ſheep - -	L. 7 10 0		
To his own and his dog's maintenance	6 10 0		
To a grey plaid given him -	0 6 0		
		L. 14	6 0
To the expence of ſmearing 140 of ſaid ſtock		2	6 0
To ditto of ſhearing or *clipping* the whole of ſaid ſtock - - - -		0 17	0
To ditto of gathering and bringing to market		1 10	0
To intereſt of ſtock, at 13 s. per head for the breeding ewes and tups, and 9 s. 6 d. for the year old ewes, being 376 l. -		L. 18 16	0
To rent - - - - - -		52 10	0
		L. 90 5	0

AMOUNT OF THE ANNUAL SALES,

By 330 draft lambs, being the uſual number for ſale, after reſerving the proportion neceſſary for maintaining the ſtock, loſſes, &c.— 300 of ditto ſold at 4 l. 10 s. and 30 of the worſt, called *ſhots*, at 2 l. 5 s. per clad ſcore		L. 67	10 0
By 54 draft or *ſlack* ewes, at 6 s. 6 d. -		17	11 0
Carried forward		L. 85	1 0

Brought forward	L. 85	1	0
By 10 *yeld* ewes, being ſuch as either had not lambs, or loſt them early, at 11 s. -	5	10	0
By 6 old tups, at 12 s. - - -	3	12	0
By 460 fleeces white, 10 to the ſtone, 46 ſtones, at 7 s. - - -	16	2	0
By 140 fleeces laid, 7 to the ſtone, 20 ſtones, at 5 s. - - - -	5	0	0
	L. 115	5	0
Yearly expence	90	5	0
Neat profit	L. 25	0	0

The profit ariſing from ſuch a ſtock, ſeems inadequate to the trouble and riſk; but it is to be obſerved, that, in moſt ſheep farms, there are ſome low arable and graſs grounds, the produce of which, in eſtimating their value, is ſeldom taken into the account. Much depends upon the times, and much upon management. In the event of a ſevere winter or ſpring, the number of lambs for ſale falls often one third ſhort of the foregoing ſtatement. The diſeaſe called *braxy*, is at times very deſtructive to them, though not nearly ſo much ſo of late, as when the grounds were firſt laid under ſheep. It ſeldom attacks any but the lambs or *hogs*, *i. e.* yearlings. Wedder lambs are more ſubject to it than ewe lambs, and the fatteſt and beſt frequently fall a ſacrifice to it, when the lean eſcape. It is moſt fatal to them on a change of weather from froſt to thaw, or thaw to froſt, but eſpecially during hoar froſt. In open winters few ſuffer by it. Taking care that the paſture is neither too rich nor too poor, is reckoned the moſt effectual way of preventing it, and changing the paſture immediately, the moſt effectual way of curing it. With the view of preventing diſeaſes, deſtroying vermin, defending

ſending from rain, and preſerving the wool, it is uſual, about the beginning of November, to *lay* the tups and lambs, and a few of the weakeſt ewes, with tar and butter. For the the ſame purpoſe, many now *bathe* the reſt of their ſheep with a ſtrong infuſion of tobacco, broom tops, &c.

Farms, Rents, &c.—The ſize of the farms is various. In the lower part of the pariſh, where the principal dependence is upon grain and black cattle, beſides the lands poſſeſſed immediately by the proprietors, there are 10 farms, containing from 50 to 164 acres, and paying from 20 l. to 80 l. Sterling of rent; and there are 54 ſmaller poſſeſſions, rented from 2 l. 10 s. to 20 l. There are likewiſe 12, which may be properly called *ſheep farms*, containing from 222 to 2880 acres, moſtly of hill paſture, and paying from 11 l. to 80 l. of yearly rent. The average rent of a ſheep's paſture in the pariſh at preſent, (for which an acre and a half of hill ground is neceſſary), is from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.; but on any lands which have been let of late, it is conſiderably higher. Upon two of theſe ſheep farms, the ſmaller tenants have a common right of paſture to 6 or 7 horſes; and there is one hill, conſiſting of 784 acres, which is laid moſtly under ſheep, and which is entirely in the hands of 11 of the ſmaller tenants, each of whom is entitled to keep there a certain proportion of cattle. Beſides the ſaid grain and ſheep farms, there are ſeveral cottages, to which a garden, and ſometimes an acre, or half an acre of land is annexed. The tenants of the ſmaller farms, as well as the cottagers, depend often more upon days labour, or ſome other employment, than upon the produce of any land they poſſeſs.

Wages, Proviſions, Fuel, &c.—The common wages of men ſervants are from 7 l. to 9 l. a year, with their maintenance;

of

of maid ſervants, from 3 l. to 4 l. The uſual day's wages of men are from 8 d. to 10 d. with maintenance, and from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. without it; of women, 6 d. with it.—The price of proviſions of every kind is very much regulated by the prices in Dumbarton and Greenock, which are the neareſt market towns. For theſe 4 years paſt, oat meal has ſold from 16s. 6 d. to 20 s. per boll; the beſt lambs, weighing from 15 lb. to 18 lb. from 4 s. to 5 s.; a hen, from 10 d. to 1 s.; a chicken, from 3 d. to 4 d.; butter, at 12 s. the ſtone; cheeſe, from 4 s. 6 d. to 6 s. the ſtone.—Coals, including the freight from Glaſgow or Scotſtown, coſt from 6 s. 6 d. to 10 s. the cart, which ſhould be 12 cwt. Peats and ſticks are the common fuel, and not much leſs expenſive.

State of Property, &c.—There are 3 heritors, one of whom reſides occaſionally. Sir JAMES COLQUHOUN of Luſs, Bart. is proprietor of far the greateſt part of the lands in the pariſh. The family reſidence is about 3 miles ſouth from Luſs, at *Roſedoe* or *Roſsdow*, *i. e.* the black promontory or head-land, a name which is not now very applicable to it, as it is finely wooded, and the black moſs which once abounded there is now moſtly converted into meadow. There is an excellent modern houſe there, which commands ſome noble views of the lake. It was built by the late Sir James Colquhoun, who reſided in the pariſh for many years, the influence of whoſe authority and example, in checking all tendency to diſorder, and in promoting the intereſts of virtue and religion, is ſtill ſenſibly felt, and his memory, therefore, much and juſtly reſpected.

Minerals.—There are two ſlate quarries, one upon the eſtate of Camſtraddan, and the other upon the eſtate of Luſs. From the former of theſe, for 5 years paſt, from 250,000 to

to 360,000 ſlates, and from the latter quarry, from 100,000 to 170,000 ſlates have been annually exported. Some of them were ſent to Greenock, Glaſgow, and Paiſley, but the greater part to the banks of the Leven, and acroſs Loch-lomond to Stirlingſhire. The ſlates are of an excellent quality, and were ſold at from 1 l. 4 s. to 1 l. 15 s. the thouſand. From 10 to 20 hands have been employed in the Camſtraddan quarry, and about 10 in the other. Some of them work upon days wages; but the greater part by the piece. They commonly get at the rate of 15 s. per 1000, and it takes 1 s. 4 d. per 1000 to lead the ſlates from the quarry to the ſhore. In the ſouth end of the pariſh there is likewiſe a very good free-ſtone quarry, from which the ſtones to the houſe of Roſedoe, and the other principal houſes in the pariſh, have been taken; but it is only wrought occaſionally.

Manufactures.—In 1790, a cotton-mill was erected near the village of Luſs. It is of the ſize moſt ſuitable to the place, ſufficiently large to give bread to ſuch as might otherwiſe be in want of employment, but not to give encouragement to the vices which are ſo apt to abound, wherever a promiſcuous multitude of people are aſſembled. From 30 to 40 hands, young and old, have been uſually employed in it. Of late, owing to the general ſtagnation of trade, little work has been carried on in it. A thread manufacture, upon a ſmall ſcale, is likewiſe carried on at Dunſin, near the ſouth end of the pariſh.

Antiquities.—About a mile and a quarter ſouth from Luſs, there are the remains of a large *cairn*, or heap of ſtones, called *Carn-ma-cheaſaig*, or, the *Cairn of St. Keſſog*, who is ſaid, at an early period, to have ſuffered death there, and

to

to have been buried in the church of Luſs. He was long revered, therefore, as the tutelar ſaint of the pariſh *. In the church-yard there are ſome ſtone coffins of conſiderable antiquity. Each of them conſiſts of one entire ſtone, with a cavity cut out of it, fit for holding a dead body at its full length, and a ſtone lid for covering it. There is no inſcription upon either of them.

Church †, *&c.*—The church is uncommonly good. It was built in 1771, by the late Sir James Colquhoun of Luſs, without laying any part of the burden upon the other heritors. The manſe was built in 1740, is inſufficient, and at preſent in need of repair. The living conſiſts of 72 bolls of oat-meal, at the rate of $8\frac{1}{2}$ ſtones per boll, 6 bolls of bear, 19*l.* 12*s.* $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling in money, and a good glebe. There is a proceſs of augmentation at preſent depending. Sir James Colquhoun is patron of the pariſh.

Schools

* The high veneration in which the memory of this ſaint was held in early times, appears from a charter to John, Laird of Luſs, preſerved in the chartulary of Lennox, which Robert, King of Scotland, confirms in the 10th year of his reign:

"Omnibus hoc ſcriptum viſuris, vel audituris, Malcolmus "Comes de Levenax, ſalutem in Chriſto. Noveritis nos ob re- "verentiam et honorem ſanctiſſimi viri filii Kessogi patroni "noſtri dediſſe, conceſſiſſe et hac praeſente. Charta noſtra con- "firmaſſe dilecto et fideli Bachulario noſtro Domino Joanne de "Luſs, et haeredibus ſuis quibuſcunque talem libertatem, quod "nos nec haeredes noſtri priſas captiones ſeu carriagia infra "terras ſuas de Luſs, quas de nobis tenet haereditarie capiemus. "Conceſſimus ſimiliter,' &c.

† The church of Luſs was one of the 6 churches within his diocese, which, in 1429, John Cameron, biſhop of Glaſgow, with the conſent, and at the deſire of their reſpective patrons, erected into prebendaries.

Schools and Poor.—There are two ſchools, for each of which a good houſe has been lately built. One of theſe is the pariſh ſchool, in which the number of ſcholars is generally from 30 to 50. The ſalary is 10 l. Sterling. The ſchool fees for reading Engliſh are 1 s. 6 d. per quarter; for reading and writing, 2 s.; for arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d.; and for Latin, 5 s. The other ſchool is ſupported by the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge. The number of ſcholars who attend it, during the whole or part of the year, is about 80. The emoluments of the ſchoolmaſter conſiſt of 13 l. Sterling of ſalary, a dwelling houſe, garden, cow's graſs, and ſome ſchool fees. The children of the poor are taught gratis.

The Society have likewiſe of late allowed a ſalary for a ſewing ſchool at Luſs. The number of poor, at preſent upon the roll, is 10. Some of theſe get weekly, and others occaſional ſupplies, according to their neceſſities. The funds for their ſupport ariſe from the collections on Sunday, rents of ſeats in the church, marriage and mort-cloth dues, and the intereſt of 150 l. Sterling of ſtock, amounting, at an average, to 37 l. Sterling yearly. L. 50 of the ſaid ſtock were bequeathed by the late Robert Carmichael, Eſq; of Broomley.

Language and Character.—South from Luſs, Engliſh, and north from it the Gaelic, is the prevailing language. The ſervice in church is performed in each of theſe.—The people, in general, are ſober and induſtrious, humane and charitable. They are regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion. The example, in this reſpect, of the families of chief rank for many years paſt, has, without doubt, had conſiderable influence upon thoſe in inferior ſtations.

Roads,

Roads, Ale-houſes, &c.—The roads have of late been much attended to, and are at preſent in good repair. In the 1786, an act of Parliament was obtained for converting the ſtatute labour of this county into money, which has had good effects.—There are 9 licenſed ale and whiſky houſes, and one inn. Four years ago there were 5 licenſed ſtills for diſtilling whiſky; now there is but one of 36 gallons.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The principal diſadvantages, under which this pariſh labours, are the great expence of fuel, the ſcarcity of natural manures, and the high price of labour, and of every neceſſary of life, owing to the neighbourhood of ſo many great manufacturing concerns; but that neighbourhood, on the other hand, is a great advantage to ſuch as have any articles to diſpoſe of.

Hints for Improvements.—Woods in general, and oak woods in particular, are now become valuable every where, and eſpecially upon the banks of Lochlomond. Whatever, therefore, relates to their improvement, muſt be well worthy the attention of every proprietor. An acre of oak wood here, at an average, is worth from 10 s. to 12 s. a year; which is a much greater return than could be had from as much ground of equal quality in any other way whatever.—The firſt great object to be attended to, is the incloſing the great body of the wood with a ſufficient ſtone dyke. The temporary wooden fence, which is commonly raiſed round it every time it is cut, ſeldom laſts above 4 years, and often amounts to one third, ſometimes to one half the expence of a ſtone wall. The wood thus incloſed ſhould, as ſoon as circumſtances will permit, be taken entirely into the proprietor's hands, whoſe intereſt it will be to encourage the natural growth of oak, aſh, holly, and other valuable timber, and

to

to plant all the vacant ſpaces with trees ſuited to the ſoil. Oak woods are never entirely out of the reach of cattle, and they ought never, therefore, to be permitted to enter them. For 4 or 5 years, all agree they muſt be carefully preſerved from them; and, after that time, if they are thriving, and the *ſtool* is ſufficiently thick, the paſture in them is no object. As to the age at which an oak wood ſhould be cut, there are different opinions. That there is a period, however, beyond which it ſhould not be permitted to grow, cannot be doubted. After it is cut, the moſt vigorous ſhoots are always obſerved to ſpring from well rooted young ſtocks, from 3 to 6 inches in diameter. Some of theſe will grow the firſt year from 4 even to 7 feet in height, and near the ground will meaſure above half an inch in diameter. In proportion as the parent ſtocks are older and larger, the ſhoots are leſs vigorous, and when the ſtocks are 13 or 14 inches in diameter, there are either no young ſhoots at all, or they are very feeble. If the great object, therefore, be to produce, at ſtated periods, a quantity of bark for the market, it muſt be the ruin of a copſe kept for that purpoſe to allow it all to grow very old. If in this country it exceeds much the uſual period of 20 or 22 years, the bark becomes inferior in quality, and the *ſtool* will ſuffer more by age, than the additional value of the timber and bark can compenſate. In order to make any oak wood, however, ſell to advantage, it is neceſſary that there ſhould be a certain proportion of timber of different ſizes, as well as bark. At every cutting, therefore, it is uſual to leave ſo many *ſtandard* trees of different ages, for the benefit of future ſales. Theſe ſhould always be healthy and vigorous, and either in the outer ſkirts of the wood, or in vacant ſpaces, where they are detached from other trees. When left without judgment in the thickeſt part of the wood, being deprived

ved of their former ſhelter, they ſeldom thrive themſelves, and by their drop and ſhade hurt all the young growth around them. Prunning or lopping off great branches from any of theſe ought carefully to be avoided. Though the ſcar may heal outwardly, yet it never fails to introduce rottenneſs, leſs or more, into the heart, which hurts the timber, and impairs the vigour of the tree.

As to the arable and beſt graſs grounds, the incloſing them, as well as the woods, with a ſufficient fence, is the firſt great improvement of which they are capable. Of what kind the fence ſhould be, nature, if attended to, will ſeldom fail to direct. In high and expoſed ſituations, hedges will not ſucceed; but there ſtones commonly abound. In the lower grounds, where ſtones are not plentiful, hawthorn hedges may be raiſed with advantage. But of all plants for this purpoſe, holly promiſes to anſwer beſt. Holly thrives every where in this country, as in its native ſoil; and it makes not only the moſt ornamental, but likewiſe the cloſeſt and the beſt of hedges. The time which it takes to raiſe the plants from the ſeed, and the expence of getting them from a nurſery, is the great bar to the general uſe of them. That bar might here be eaſily removed; the hollies which grow wild in the woods, naturally lay their own branches, which, as ſoon as they touch the ground, freely take root. With a little aſſiſtance from art, a ſufficient number of well rooted plants could ſoon be got, which might ſafely be tranſplanted at ſuch an age as to make almoſt an immediate fence.

The having the whole lands of a country engroſſed into *a few hands*, is certainly much againſt the public intereſt. Every man, however, who depends entirely upon the produce of his fields, ought to have, at leaſt, as much land as is ſufficient for affording himſelf and his family a comfortable

ſubſiſtence

ſubſiſtence and conſtant employment; and if he poſſeſſes any waſte land, he ought to have ſufficient encouragement from the proprietor for taking it into tillage, and improving it. When the caſe is otherwiſe, he is under a temptation of ruining his ground, by over-cropping it, one of the moſt prevailing errors in the preſent Highland ſyſtem of farming. But the man, on the other hand, whoſe chief dependence is upon days labour, or ſome other employment, ought to have land ſufficient only for ſupplying his family with milk, potatoes, and other neceſſaries, but not ſo much as to divert his attention from his proper buſineſs. Grazing farms, and eſpecially ſheep farms, muſt, from their nature, be on a greater ſcale. In them a great range, and a variety of paſture, are indiſpenſibly neceſſary. As much as the ſtate of property, therefore, will permit, their boundaries ought to be the great boundaries of nature. When the paſture of a hill or mountain is parcelled out among two or three different tenants, without any inacceſſible *gullies* or rocks to form a line of ſeparation, the cattle of each will be conſtantly treſpaſſing ſomewhere, and therefore conſtantly chaced from one part to another, ſo that neither will receive much benefit from it. Common paſture, in ſuch a caſe, is ſeldom found to be a remedy for the evil. Whatever wiſe and juſt regulations may at firſt be laid down for fixing the proportion of cattle to be kept by each, they are never in fact adhered to; and the ground is always overſtocked.

The preſent breed of ſheep in this pariſh may perhaps be changed with advantage. In every attempt of this kind, however, great caution is neceſſary. The trial ſhould firſt be made with ſmall parcels, and rather by the proprietors than by the tenants. Sheep are delicate animals, ſubject to many diſeaſes, and when they are taken from one country to another, or even from one farm to another, it takes

ſome

ſome time before they are habituated to their new ſituation, and thrive in it. When a man takes a ſheep farm, therefore, he endeavours, if poſſible, to purchaſe from the outgoing tenant the ſtock of ſheep upon it, which he reckons at the rate of at leaſt 2 s. a head more valuable to him than to any other.

Though the tenants are now more comfortably lodged than they once were, there is ſtill, in that reſpect, room for improvement. In a country which abounds ſo much with ſlates, it may appear ſurpriſing that ſo few of the houſes ſhould be covered with them, though there can be no doubt, but in the iſſue, they would be found leſs expenſive than any thatch which could be uſed. The great obſtacle to the uſe of them for that purpoſe, at preſent, is the expence of the timber required. That obſtacle, it is hoped, will in time be removed. When the extenſive and thriving plantations, in different parts of the country, have grown up, timber will be more eaſily got.

All theſe improvements, however, are more wanted in many other parts than here, where ſome of them have already taken place. Within theſe 26 years, above 4000 l. Sterling have been laid out upon the eſtate of Luſs alone, in incloſing the woods and arable grounds with ſufficient ſtone dykes and other fences, and in planting; not to ſpeak of the ſums expended upon other improvements. Within the ſame ſpace of time, near 100 acres of waſte land have been brought into tillage, and now produce tolerable crops.

NUMBER XVIII.

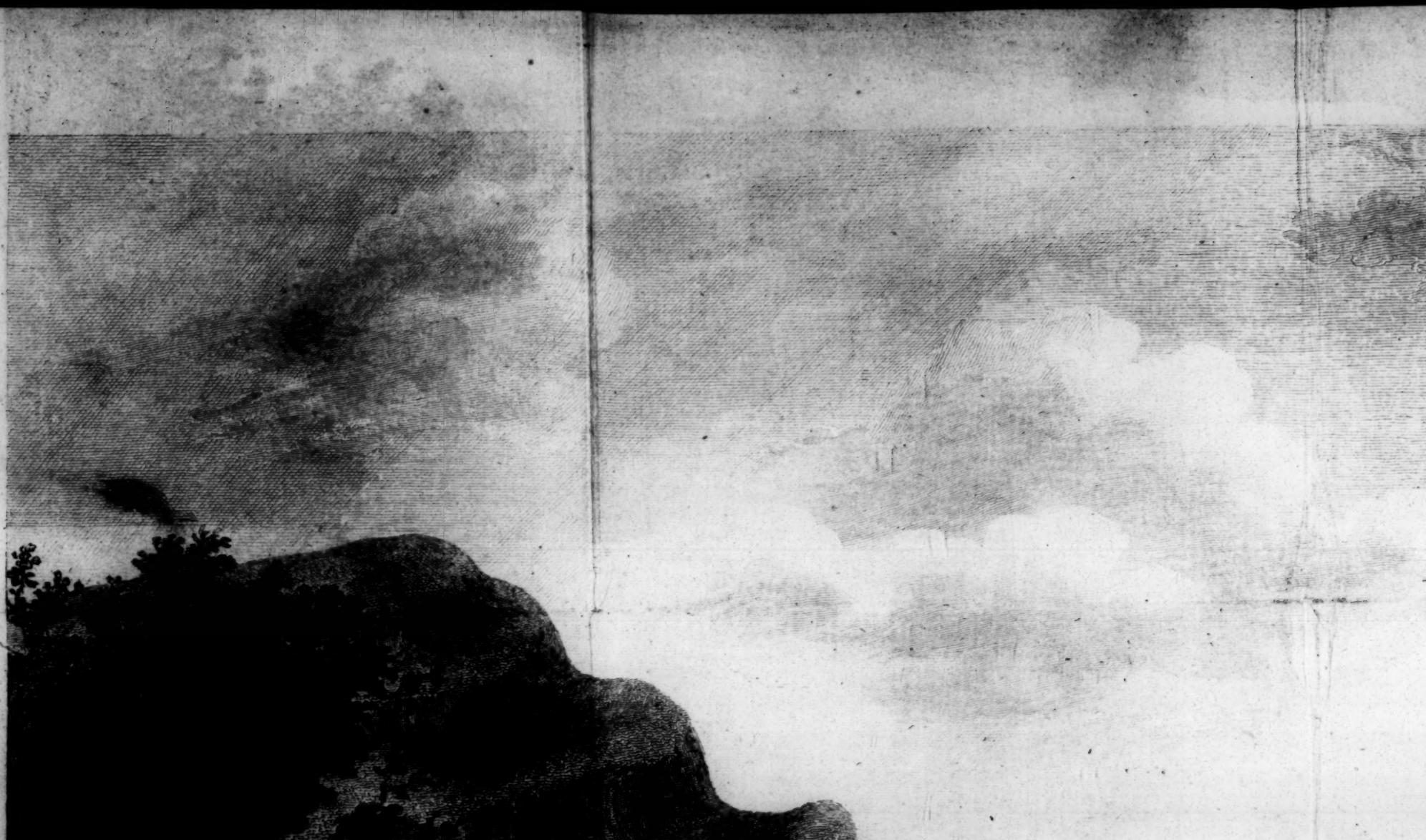
PARISH OF SMALL ISLES.

(COUNTIES OF INVERNESS AND ARGYLE—PRESBYTERY OF SKY.—SYNOD OF GLENELG).

By the Rev. Mr DONALD M'LEAN, *Miniſter.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS pariſh conſiſts of four iſlands, Eigg, Rum, Canna, and Iſle Muck. It was a part of the pariſh of Sleat, until the year 1726. At its erection into a ſeparate charge, it was called the pariſh of Eigg, (it being the moſt valuable iſland, and that in which the miniſter reſides), or Short Iſles. In proceſs of time, the name was, by an eaſy tranſition, changed from *Short* to *Small* Iſles. Eigg is ſituated in the county of Inverneſs, the other three iſlands are in the county of Argyle. The pariſh is in the preſbytery of Sky and ſynod of Glenelg. Eigg is between 4 and 5 miles in length, and from 2 to 3 in breadth. Through the middle of it there is a hallow, called, in Gaelic, *Eagg*, hence the iſland derives its name. It is computed to be about 8 miles weſt from the point of Arriſaig, the neareſt part of the main land. Rum is ſituated about 5 computed miles W. N. W. from Eigg. It ſeems to derive its name from the Gaelic word *Rhum*, ſignifying extent, as it is the moſt extenſive of theſe iſlands, being 8 miles long, 8 miles broad, and containing above 22,000 ſquare acres. Canna is 4 computed miles weſt from



Drawn by Lieut. John Pierrie of the Roy. Navy

View of the Harb



Engraved by John Beugo

Harbour of Cana

from Rum, and is about 4 computed miles long, and one broad. Isle Muck lies about 4 miles W S. W. from the neareſt part of Eigg is between 2 and 3 miles in length, and one in breadth. This iſland is called in Gaelic, *Eillean nan Muchd*, which, literally tranſlated, is, *Iſland of Swine*; hence Isle Muck, and Buchanan very properly calls it *Inſula Porcorum*.

Appearance.—The iſland of Eigg is partly flat, but principally hilly and rocky. The hills are covered with heath, which, in ſome places, is mixed with coarſe graſs. Its low grounds are partly deep, partly ſhallow, and tolerably productive, where there is a depth of ſoil. Rum is in general hilly, mountainous, and rocky, much fitter for paſture than crop Canna is partly high, and partly low ground, the high good for paſture, and the low for crop. Isle Muck is pretty low, excepting one hill of no conſiderable height; its ſoil is in general good. The height of the Rum hills alone ſeems worthy of notice, but for want of proper inſtruments, it cannot at preſent be aſcertained. Of theſe the ſummits are almoſt wholly rocky and barren.

Vegetable and Animal Productions.—The pariſh produces, barley, oats, potatoes, flax, kails, and a few other garden ſtuffs in ſmall quantities. In Canna great oats anſwer pretty well; on Eigg, the cultivation of this grain has been attempted for two years paſt, but did not ſucceed. After it comes to the ear, it is lodged, and great part of it rots on the ground, owing to the frequent and heavy falls of rain. On barley and ſmall oats, the rain has often a ſimilar effect, though not in an equal degree. It is with reaſon believed, that green crops would anſwer better. The crop ſeldom affords the inhabitants a competent ſubſiſtence. For ſeveral

years paſt, a conſiderable quantity of meal has been annually imported, it having been neceſſary to feed their cattle with a great part of their own crop, during the winter ſeaſon, eſpecially when ſevere. The ſeed time begins about the firſt of April, and the harveſt about the 12th of September. In Iſle Muck the harveſt is ſomewhat later, and yet the ſeed-time ſomewhat earlier. Laſt year, 1793, the crop was not all got in till near the end of November. The ſhores would produce about 50 tons kelp annually, if the ſeaſon was very favourable, but the quantity muſt depend greatly upon the weather. The animals reared in the pariſh are horſes, horned cattle, ſheep, and a few goats. Horſes are reared for ſale in Rum only: They are hardy and high mettled, though of a ſmall ſize. The horned cattle of Canna and Iſle Muck grow to a conſiderable ſize, owing to the fineneſs of their graſs; but, when carried to market, they are liable to a diſtemper called the *bloody urine*, which of courſe reduces their price. Moſt of the farmers in Eigg, and the principal tackſman in Canna, rear a few of the ſmaller ſort of ſheep for the uſe of their families. One farm in Eigg was begun to be ſtocked with black faced ſheep, about two years ago. They ſeem to multiply and thrive well. There are no ſheep in Iſle Muck. In Rum, there is a conſiderable number of ſmall native ſheep; their fleſh is delicious, and their wool valuable. A quantity of it is ſent yearly to the Redcaſtle market, near Inverneſs, where it often ſells at 14s. the ſtone, while other wool ſells about half that price. This iſland ſeems beſt calculated for rearing ſheep, being almoſt wholly covered with hills and high mountains, but the proprietor's attachment to the inhabitants, has hitherto prevented its being ſtocked with *them only*. In Rum there were formerly great numbers of deer; there was alſo a copſe of wood, that afforded cover to their fawn from birds of prey, parti-

particularly from the eagle: While the wood throve, the deer alſo throve; now that the wood is totally deſtroyed, the deer are extirpated. Before the uſe of fire arms, their method of killing deer was as follows: On each ſide of a glen, formed by two mountains, ſtone dykes were begun pretty high in the mountains, and carried to the lower part of the valley, always drawing nearer, till within 3 or 4 feet of each other. From this narrow paſs, a circular ſpace was incloſed by a ſtone wall, of a height ſufficient to confine the deer; to this place they were purſued and deſtroyed. The veſtige of one of theſe incloſures is ſtill to be ſeen in Rum. In Canna, there are ſome wild rabbits of a greyiſh colour. In this pariſh rats abound; lately a remarkable one, purely white, has been killed in Eigg. It was the only rat of this appearance ever ſeen in the place. The amphibious animals are ſeals and otters; the blubber of the one is made into oil, and the ſkin of the other is ſold for fur, at a price proportionate to its ſize; ſome of them have been ſold for above 12 s. Sterling. Though the grown up ſeals feed at ſea, they ſuckle their young on ſhore. There are two diſtinct ſpecies of ſeals, a ſmaller and a larger; the ſmaller brings forth its young about the middle of ſummer, and the larger about the middle of harveſt. It is ſaid the young are fully fat, and often killed, before they bring them into the ſea. The principal kinds of fiſh caught upon theſe coaſts are herrings, cod, and ling. The herrings are ſome years caught in Loch Sere-fort in Rum, during the month of Auguſt; but the inhabitants being ill provided in fiſhing materials, ſeldom catch a competency for their own families. The cod and ling are caught moſtly on the coaſts of Canna and Iſle Muck, the fiſhing ground being moſt convenient to the harbours in theſe iſlands. They are exported to the Clyde market, and the ling ſold from 3 l. to 3 l. 10 s. per 120 ling. The Cear-

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ban or ſun-fiſh appear in May, and ſometimes remain till July. Their liver alone is uſeful for making oil, ſome of them yielding 12 barrels. This oil is alſo moſt frequently exported to the Clyde market. Different other kinds of fiſhes are caught, of ſome benefit to the inhabitants; but it is unneceſſary to particulariſe them here.—The land and ſea birds in this pariſh are much the ſame with thoſe in the neighbouring iſlands. Birds of prey are numerous; grouſe are found in Rum and Eigg. There are ſome pigeons, and a few wild ducks. The puffins are found in conſiderable numbers, which, though ſea fowls, lay and hatch ſometimes at a great diſtance from the ſhore, even near the tops of high hills. Their young, before they leave the neſt, are as large as the dam, tranſparent with fat, and delicious to the taſte of many. It is believed, that the young puffin becomes ſo weighty with fat, as to be unable to take the wing and leave its neſt: To remedy this inconvenience, the old puffin is ſaid to adminiſter ſorrel, to extenuate, and render it fit for flying. It is, at any rate, a known fact, that ſorrel is commonly found to grow near the puffin's neſt. There is a ſmall kind of black crow peculiar to Eigg, having its body, back, head and neck, of a greyiſh blue colour, and ſeemingly of the ſize of a pigeon. In ſome of the high hills of Rum, ptarmigans are found. In reſpect of ſize, they are ſomewhat leſs than grouſe; and, for ſecurity againſt birds of prey, they aſſume the colour of the ground; in cold ſeaſons they are white as ſnow; in other ſeaſons they are ſpotted white and blue, like the craggy cliffs among which they live. Here plovers are not numerous. There are a few curlews, ſnipes, and herons, with many other birds, of too little importance to be ſeverally mentioned. Our migratory birds are rails, cuckows, woodcocks, ſwallows, arctic gulls, and

and ſolan geeſe. The periods of their arrival and departure are too well known to be inſiſted on.

Tides. Iſlands, and Harbours.—In general, the tide of flood ſets north, the tide of ebb ſouth; but it often varies, according to the ſituation of the coaſts of the iſlands. On the ſouth coaſt of Eigg, there is a ſmall iſland, called Eillan Chaſtel which is good for paſture, and a pendicle of a contiguous farm in Eigg. A few perſons, tending cattle, live upon it during a part of the ſummer months only. The ſound between this iſland and Eigg, makes a tolerable harbour for a few veſſels not exceeding 70 tons. It has no great depth of water, and conſequently, with ſpring tides, ſuch veſſels are apt to take the ground, the conſequence of which, in ſevere weather, might be dangerous. This harbour is in the courſe of veſſels from the point of Ardnamurchan to iſle Oronſay in Sleat, oppoſite to Loch Urn, and nearly equidiſtant from the latter and Tobermory. There are two entrances to it, the one from the ſouth-weſt, and the other from the north-eaſt, in a line parallel to the above courſe, and ſo muſt be a good outlet for either of the aforeſaid harbours. Within this harbour, a pier has been built by the inhabitants, for the ſecurity of fiſhing boats and ſmall veſſels, but on a plan not ſufficiently extenſive for accommodating veſſels of the above mentioned ſize; beſides that, it has been neglected for ſome time, and become in a manner ruinous. If a pier, properly planned to afford protection in caſe of ſtorms, were built here, this harbour might facilitate the navigation of herring buſſes, both north to the fiſhing, and ſouth to the market. It lies in a centrical ſituation, between the two former harbours, and, if accommodated as above, might prevent buſſes when overtaken by contrary winds, or diſagreeable weather, from driving back to either,

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and thus be a means of bringing them to their deſtined port many days earlier. The only harbour in Rum is Loch Sere-ſort, on the eaſt coaſt thereof. It bears eaſt and weſt, and runs a conſiderable way into the iſland; it is eaſy of acceſs, the entrance being pretty wide; there are ſome ſunk rocks on the ſouth ſide of the entrance. Between theſe rocks and the north ſide are about three fourths of its whole breadth, perfectly clear, affording ſufficient room to tack in or out at pleaſure. This harbour is only open to the eaſtward, and conſequently there is ſeldom any great ſwell. It is ſpacious, its ground good, its depth of water from 5 to 7 fathoms, and is a good outlet either north or ſouth. Near the head, and on the ſouth ſide of this harbour, a pier was begun a few years ſince, which is ſtill carried on, but not finiſhed. This is ſuſtained as ſtatute labour. This harbour, to be frequented, needs only to be better known, as it is not only commodious in itſelf, but lies convenient for ſupplies of beef and mutton at a very moderate rate. On the ſouth-eaſt ſide of Canna lies the *Sand Iſland*, ſeparated from the former by a very narrow ſound, which ebbs dry for the greateſt part of every tide, and at high water, fiſhing-boats can with difficulty paſs through it. This iſland is valuable, and fit both for crop and paſture. It has 4 tenants on it, who hold of the proprietor, and pay about 60 l. rent. Between this iſland and Canna, lies the well known and much frequented harbour of that name. This harbour is ſafe, eſpecially for ſhips of moderate ſize; it is, however, ſhallow and confined, and, without a favourable wind, it is difficult to enter or to leave it; and this inconvenience is increaſed by a large rock without the mouth of it, which is ſometimes wholly under water. On the north-weſt ſide of Iſle Muck, lies *Eillean nan Each*, Iſland of Horſes. Between them is a foul, rocky, narrow channel, which frequently ebbs dry. This iſland is of inconſiderable

considerable extent, but good for pasture. In Isle Muck there are a few creeks, which afford shelter to small boats; but no safe harbour for vessels. In two of these creeks are piers in an imperfect state.

Air and Climate.—The air is generally moist, and the weather rainy. The southerly and westerly winds, which are the most frequent, are almost constantly attended with rain. It is remarked by the inhabitants, that the seasons are still becoming more and more rainy. For a few years past, even the winters have been attended with rain, instead of the usual snow and frost. The last summer and harvest, 1793, were much more rainy than any remembered, which is the more singular, as the weather was said to be very dry in the low lands of Scotland, and favourable even within 50 miles to the eastward. These rains make the grain crops precarious, and of little value, though they have, for some time, a promising appearance. The climate, however, is healthy; the causes may be, that there is no considerable body of stagnant waters; the good quality of the waters in most of these islands, and the pure sea air which the inhabitants always breathe.—The diseases, which most commonly appear in this parish, are the continued fever, croup, erysipelas, measles, catarrh, pleurisy, epilepsy, hooping cough, diarrhœa, dropsy of the belly, and jaundice. Of these the most fatal are the croup, pleurisy, and hooping cough. About two years ago, the croup proved very mortal, and swept away many children, some of them about 9 or 10 years of age.

Population.—For want of funds to support a session-clerk, there is no register either of births, deaths, or marriages kept in the parish; besides, a great number of the inhabitants are Roman Catholics, and do not fall under the cognisance of the

the parish minister; and if he were to keep such register, by law he is liable to a penalty, unless he should collect the taxes upon births, marriages, &c which, by many, is thought a grievance, and to evade the penalty, the registers are neglected. By a list, lately taken, it appears, that the number of inhabitants in this parish is as follows:

In Eigg — — —	399
— Rum — — —	443
— Canna — — —	304
— Isle Muck — — —	193
Total	1339

Of whom there are, under 10 years of age	327
—— —— —— from 10 to 20 —	256
—— —— —— from 20 to 50 —	534
—— —— —— from 50 to 70 —	175
—— —— —— from 70 to 90 —	42
—— —— —— above 90 — —	5
Total as before	1339
And of these there are, males —	648
—— —— —— females —	691
	1339
—— —— —— Protestants —	799
—— —— —— Roman Catholics	540
	1339

Four of the above are about 92 or 93 years of age, and one about 100. There are married couples, 240; widows, 48; widowers, 12; inhabited houses, 252; so that the number of married, widows, and widowers, is to the number of

of unmarried as 2 to 3, and to the whole population, as 2 to 5 nearly; and the average number of each family is about $5\frac{1}{3}$. By a liſt of the inhabitants of this pariſh, taken by the late Mr M'Aſkill, in the year 1768, there were at that period in Eigg, 501 ſouls; in Rum, 302; in Canna, 233, and in Iſle Muck, 172, in all 1208, leſs than the preſent population by 131; to which, if the number of emigrants hereafter mentioned be added, the population ſeems to be greatly on the increaſe.

There are 8 male and 6 female weavers, 1 houſe-carpenter, and 5 boat-carpenters, 5 taylors, and 2 ſmiths. Moſt of theſe, beſides their reſpective trades, ſpend a conſiderable part of their time in fiſhing, labouring, and other neceſſary occupations. There are few or no ſeamen, except thoſe who follow the fiſhing during a part of the year. There are two merchants, who bring their goods from the Glaſgow market. There is one clergyman of the Eſtabliſhed church, one Roman Catholic prieſt, one ſurgeon, and one ſchoolmaſter; all theſe have their reſidence in Eigg.

In Eigg, 8 tenants pay rent to the proprietors; in Canna, 5; in Iſle Muck, 24; and in Rum, 43.

In the years 1788 and 1790, 183 ſouls emigrated from this pariſh to America, and 55 to the mainland of Scotland and to neighbouring iſlands; of theſe 176 left Eigg. A principal cauſe of this emigration was, that the country was overſtocked with people, ariſing from frequent early marriages; of courſe, the lands were able to ſupply them but ſcantily with the neceſſaries of life. It is not unfrequent, upon theſe occaſions, for a parent to divide with his newly married ſon, the pittance of land (ſometimes a very ſmall portion of a farm) poſſeſſed by him, which muſt reduce both to poverty and miſery. Another cauſe of the emigration is,

that the iſland of Eigg, which was formerly in part rented by ſmall tenants, was divided among 8 principal tackſmen.

Stones.—In various parts of the coaſt of Eigg, there are bodies of free ſtone, ſome of it too ſoft, and ſome of it ſufficiently ſolid to bear the chiſſel; but hitherto it has been converted to no uſeful purpoſe that I know. On the N. W. ſide of the iſland, there is alſo a body of ſhelly limeſtone, yielding fine lime, and not difficult to burn; this, if fuel were plentiful, might afford excellent manure. In Rum, there is a kind of light red rock, which has an affinity to very hard free ſtone; it dreſſes well under the hammer, and is very fit for rough building. In one particular ſpot, it is found in pretty thin flags, not difficult to quarry, ſome of them about 5 feet ſquare; ſome of them have been ſquared with the hammer, and floors paved with them to very good purpoſe. In this iſland, alſo, cryſtalline and pebble ſtones, not large in ſize, but of great ſolidity, are found. Glaſs has been cut by ſome of the cryſtals. The pebbles are of various colours, and admit of a very fine poliſh.

Inundations.—On the north ſide of Rum there is a rivulet, taking its riſe in ſome of the higheſt mountains, which has often overflowed its banks, and, ſpreading over the valley through which it runs, done conſiderable damage to the growing corn, and ſwept along ſome of the peats cut in the neighbourhood.

Language.—The language, principally ſpoken, and univerſally underſtood, is Gaelic, and from it the names of places ſeem moſtly to be derived; yet it muſt be confeſſed, that there are names of places, which the preſent inhabitants do not fully underſtand, that ſeem to be derived from a lan-

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guage or languages to them unknown; but ſuppoſed to be Daniſh. Tradition ſays, that of old the iſlands forming this pariſh, had names ſometimes given them different from thoſe which they now bear: Thus Eigg was called *Eillan nan Banmore*, (the Iſland of the Great Women); Rum was called *Rioghachd na Forraiſte Fiadhaich*, (the Kingdom of the Wild Forreſt); Canna was called *An t-eillan tarſſuin*, (the Iſland lying acroſs); and Iſle Muck, *Tirr Chrainne*, (the Sow's Iſland). But theſe may be ſuppoſed poetical names, given by the Gaelic bards; and the ſuperſtitious are ſaid to have uſed them, and them only, when at ſea, and bound for theſe iſlands.

Rents and Heritors.—The rent of the pariſh is as follows: Eigg, kelp included, 343 l. 12 s. 3 d.—Canna, kelp included, about 240 l.—Rum, 209 l. 13 s. 6 d. Iſle Muck, excluſive of the kelp, but including one third of the whole iſland under ſtock to the proprietor, and valued at an equal rate with the reſt, 252 l. Total rent of the pariſh, 1044 l. 5 s. 9 d. —Three heritors have landed property in this pariſh, viz. John M'Donald of Clanrannald, Eſq; whoſe property in this pariſh is Eigg and Canna; Major Alexander M'Lean of Coll, whoſe property in this pariſh is Rum; and Captain Lachlan M'Lean, proprietor of Iſle Muck. None of theſe proprietors have their reſidence in the pariſh.

State of the Church.—The King is patron. The living, including manſe and glebe, has been, ſince the augmentation in 1786, equal to about 90 l. a year. Of the ſtipends, 17 l. 18 s. 9 d. has been annually paid out of the teinds of Sleat, ſince the erection of this pariſh into a ſeparate charge; now a proceſs of reduction is carried on at the inſtance of the miniſter of Sleat, with a view to withdraw the foreſaid portion

tion of the Sleat teinds. The miniſter, weather permitting, officiates in Rum once a month; in Iſle Muck, once a month; in Canna, once a quarter; and the reſt of the time in Eigg. He muſt attend the meetings of preſbytery at Sky, and of ſynod at Glenelg or Sky, and conſequently cannot be above a third of his time at home. He muſt, at his own expence, keep a boat of a conſiderable ſize, and well rigged, always in readineſs to tranſport him to theſe ſeveral iſlands, which muſt be a conſiderable diminution of his income. Donald M'Lean is now miniſter of this pariſh, who was admitted and ſettled in October 1787. His predeceſſors in office were Malcolm M'Aſkill, who died April 1787, and was admitted in 1757; and Donald M'Queen, the firſt miniſter of the pariſh as a ſeparate charge, who was admitted in 1726, and tranſlated to Uiſt in 1756. The preſent miniſter is married, has 3 ſons and 2 daughters. A manſe, for the firſt time, was built in Eigg in 1790, and a preaching houſe in Eigg, for the firſt time alſo, in 1793.

State of the Poor.—The number of poor, on the kirk ſeſſion roll, of the reformed religion, is 19, and thoſe of the Roman Catholic, 20. They indiſcriminately travel, and receive alms through the pariſh. There is no fixed fund, except about 30 s. a year given by Mr M'Lean of Coll, for the poor in Rum. The ſeſſion fund conſiſts only of a little money collected on Sabbaths, and of fines paid by delinquents. This money is, once a year, diſtributed among the poor of the reformed. The prieſt is left at liberty to uplift fines from delinquents of his own perſuaſion, and to apply them in a ſimilar manner.

Prices of Proviſions, Labour, &c.—Prices of proviſions vary according to ſeaſons. Imported oat meal has ſold, during the

the laſt 5 years, from 15 s. to 20 s. each boll of 8 ſtone weight; the country meal, both oat and barley, from 14 s. to 20 s. the boll, containing 20 pecks, and each peck about $5\frac{1}{4}$ Scotch pints. Potatoes ſell between 2 s. to 3 s. the barrel. There is little or no beef or mutton ſold by the weight, excepting in Canna, to ſeafaring people, who purchaſe it from 2 d. to 3 d. the lb. Butter ſells from 12 s. to 14 s. and cheeſe about 5 s. the ſtone of 22 Engliſh pounds.

A labourer is hired at 1 s. a day, if he maintains himſelf, or 6 d. per day with victuals; carpenters from 8 d. to 1 s. with victuals; maſons, about 2 s. without victuals; ſhoemakers, at 8 d. with victuals. Taylors are generally paid by the piece work. In a ſituation like this, it is difficult to aſcertain the expence of a married common labourer in huſbandry. The terms allowed them have no fixed ſtandard. Many of them have one fourth of the crop they make with the plough, being generally barley and oats, and a third of the crop they make with the ſpade, and manure with ſea-ware, which is principally potatoes, and grazing for two cows with their followers. This muſt afford them but a ſcanty ſubſiſtence, eſpecially in years of ſcarcity, when they have a numerous family of weak children; but, with the aid derived from the ſhore, they are enabled to live. Theſe are ſimply the wages of the man's perſonal labour, his wife giving no aſſiſtance, except a few weeks in harveſt, to reap the crop. Single male ſervants in huſbandry receive about 3 l. in money, what they wear of ſhoes, other perquiſites, and their victuals. Other male domeſtic ſervants are allowed from 2 l. to 3 l. a year, with ſhoes and perquiſites. Female domeſtic ſervants receive from 12 s. to 20 s. with ſhoes and ſeveral other perquiſites. The average price of horſes may be about 3 l. 10 s.; horned cattle, about 3 l.; ſheep, about 4 s.

Fuel.

Fuel.—The fuel conſiſts principally of peats, to which heath muſt be frequently added. In Eigg there is a competency of peats and heath; in Rum abundance; in Canna there is no heath for fuel, and their ſtore of peats is not ſo abundant. Formerly Rum helped to ſupply Canna in peats, but of late years the iſland ſupplies itſelf, except a quantity of coal imported from the Clyde, by the principal tackſman, and ſome peats, he now carries from the coaſt of Sky, for the uſe of his family. Iſle Muck, within itſelf, is ill provided in fuel. Formerly they were provided in peats by Rum and Ardnamurchan; of late their ſupplies were ſolely from Rum, with much perſonal toil and danger. From Eigg, they import boat loads of heath, when their peats become ſcarce. In winter 1790 and 1791, there was a general ſcarcity of firing throughout this pariſh, which Iſle Muck moſt ſeverely felt. They were reduced to the neceſſity of burning different kinds of furniture, ſuch as beds, dreſſers, ſtools, barrels; and alſo houſe timber, divots, tangles, ſtraw, &c. to dreſs their victuals. Bringing heath from Eigg was a conſtant employment when the weather permitted.

Ploughs.—In Eigg there are 8 ploughs; in Canna and Sand Iſland, 7; in Iſle Muck, 7; and in Rum, 2; but they labour all with the ſpade, except two ſmall fields.

Antiquities and Curioſities.—There are ſeveral veſtiges of antient buildings, generally of a circular form, which tradition ſays were Daniſh forts. From their ſituation, the one being always in view of two others in oppoſite directions from it, they were more probably watch towers than places of ſtrength. There are no barrows or tumuli in the pariſh, except one in Eigg, on the farm of Kiell Donnain, near an old Popiſh chapel, from which it lies at the diſtance of about

80 yards. It is ſaid to be the burial place of Donnan, the tutelary ſaint of Eigg; and it lies in a field of arable ground, and the thin flag covering the ſepulchral urn, in which Donnan's remains had been depoſited, was ſome years ago expoſed by the plough; upon which the urn, being a large round hollow ſtone, was taken up and examined, and found to contain a number of bones, but no ſcull appeared among them. It was again buried, at the diſtance of a few yards from the place where it formerly lay.

Among the curioſities of this pariſh is the Compaſs Hill in Canna. It is called Compaſs Hill, from its extraordinary effect upon the mariner's compaſs. When a compaſs is brought to a particular ſituation thereon, its needle is immediately reverſed. The ſame effect is produced by a ſteep rock on the north ſide of the entrance of the harbour, when a compaſs is brought near it. In Rum is a well, called *Tobar Dearg*, (Red Well), the water of which is highly mineral; but very little uſed by the natives.

If baſaltic pillars may be conſidered as a ſufficient proof of volcanoes, many of them appear in Eigg and Canna. In Canna they appear far diſtant from the ſea; in Eigg, not only near the ſea, but near the top of its higheſt hills. Even Scure Eigg, the higheſt hill in that iſland, ſeems to be principally formed of a rock, having much of a baſaltic appearance. Along the coaſt of Eigg, rocks are found remarkably light and porous, which renders it probable that they have been once tortured in the fire. Even places may be pointed out, where ſmall portions of theſe rocks ſeem to have been formerly in a liquid ſtate. There are ſeveral caves along the coaſts of the different iſlands in this pariſh, ſome of which are not altogether unworthy of notice. On the S. W. ſide of Eigg, there is one called *Uamha Chrabhuidh* (the Cave of Devotion), in which the Roman Catholic inhabitants were

were wont to attend maſs in time of the Reformation. Their altar is ſtill to be ſeen. Its roof is irregularly arched; its height, at the entrance, about 60 feet; its length, 220 feet, and its breadth, 30 feet. Near the entrance of this cave, ſome parts of the rock ſeem to have been once in a liquified ſtate. At no great diſtance eaſt of this cave, is *Uamha Fhraine*, (the Cave of Francis) remarkable not only for its form, but alſo for the murder of the inhabitants of this iſland by Aliſtair Crotach, Laird of M'Leod. The entrance of this cave is ſo ſmall, that a perſon muſt creep on four for about 12 feet; it then becomes pretty capacious, its length being 213 feet, breadth 22, and height 17. With regard to the murder above mentioned, it is ſaid that ſome of M'Leod's vaſſals, returning from Glaſgow, touched at the harbour of Eigg. Some Eigg women were then tending cattle in Eil-lean Chaſtell, the ſmall iſland which forms this harbour. The ſtrangers viſited, and maltreated the women. Their friends having got information, purſued and deſtroyed thoſe ſtrangers. This treatment of his vaſſals, M'Leod conſidered as an inſult, and came in force to revenge their death. The inhabitants, appriſed of their danger, flocked to this cave for concealment, excepting 3, who took other places of refuge, and a boat's crew then in Glaſgow. M'Leod, after landing, having found no inhabitants, believed they had fled to the main-land, and reſolved to return immediately to Sky. The people in the cave, impatient of their confinement, ſent a ſcout to reconnoitre, who imprudently ſhewed himſelf upon an eminence, where he was readily obſerved by the enemy, then actually under ſail for Sky. Unfortunately for the inhabitants, there was new laid ſnow upon the ground. M'Leod re-landed, and traced the ſcout to the cave's mouth: He offered, upon delivering up to him the murderers of his people, to ſpare the other inhabitants. The terms were rejected,

jected, upon which M'Leod ſmoked them all to death. In the confined air of this cave, the bones are ſtill pretty freſh, and ſome of the ſkulls entire, and the teeth in their ſockets. About 40 ſkulls have been lately numbered here. It is probable a greater number was deſtroyed; if ſo, their neighbouring friends may have carried them off for burial in conſecrated ground.

Seafaring, &c.—As to ſeafaring, the people appear fond of fiſhing only. They ſeldom enter on board the navy, unleſs compelled. There are but two decked veſſels, of about 25 tons each. The number of fiſhing boats is about 15, and of paſſage boats 10, from 2 to 4 tons each. Eleven young men in Rum inliſted in the Breadalbane fencible regiment, in March 1793. In Eigg and Canna there was no recruiting carried on; and in Iſle Muck, none inliſted, though required by the proprietor.

Way of Living.—The people appear neither expenſive nor luxurious. They live chiefly upon potatoes and herrings; and among the more opulent tackſmen, a diſh of tea and a dram of whiſky are their greateſt luxuries.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The healthy ſituation of the pariſh, and the fiſhing grounds near its coaſts are among its greateſt advantages. Eigg ſeems pretty equally divided as to crop and paſture grounds, and, in plentiful ſeaſons, ſhould maintain its preſent inhabitants. Canna, Iſle Muck, and Rum, are not inconveniently ſituated, mutually to aſſiſt each other, if a plan proper for this purpoſe were adopted. Rum might help the ſummer grazing of Canna and Iſle Muck, and render their cattle fitter for market. Canna and Iſle Muck might afford a ſurplus of crop to ſupply the inhabitants

bitants of Rum. In the former iſlands fuel is ſcarce; in the latter, moſs is plentiful. Indeed the people of Iſle Muck get a great part of their fuel, and ſummer graſs for their horſes, in Rum, as a gratuity, during pleaſure, from its proprietor to the proprietor of Iſle Muck, who is a cadet of his family. Some benefit may reſult to Canna from its harbour, which is much frequented by the trade from the Baltic and its neighbourhood. It might be expected that Rum would largely ſhare in this benefit, if its harbour was generally known.

The diſadvantages of this pariſh are not few. In this extenſive pariſh, conſiſting of ſo many iſlands, where the navigation is tedious and dangerous, eſpecially to the iſlands more remote from the clergyman's reſidence; the diſtance from the harbour of Eigg to the harbour of Canna, being computed 30 miles; to that of Rum 16, and to that of Iſle Muck, 6 miles: His attendance on each cannot be ſo frequent, nor his labours ſo beneficial, as their wants neceſſarily require. Notwithſtanding his exertions, the people muſt be liable to a ſeduction into a ſuperſtition, ſubverſive of morality and of genuine piety; and the more ſo, as its emiſſaries, now tolerated by law, traffic among them without controul. Hence the neceſſity of eſtabliſhing amiſſion in two of theſe iſlands is thought evident. The want of ſchools is another diſadvantage. The ambulatory ſchool, once eſtabliſhed in this pariſh, by the Society in Scotland for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, was removed in Summer 1792. Till ſummer 1793, a parochial ſchool was never obtained: It is now fixed in Eigg, and the only one in the pariſh. From this ſchool, children in the other iſlands, eſpecially the poorer ſort, can derive no benefit. Ignorance muſt be the conſequence, and they may not only be an eaſy prey to ſeducers, but worſe qualified to act their part as uſeful members of ſociety.

ciety. To obviate this grievance, a ſchool, if practicable, ſhould be eſtabliſhed in each iſland. Another inconvenience ariſes from the want of a poſt office, in a proper ſituation, on the oppoſite continent. The neareſt poſt-town is Fort William. From Fort William to Ardnafouran is about 40 computed miles; from Ardnafouran, the neareſt ſtage to Eigg, is about 11 miles over water. A poſt office at Ardnafouran, and a packet between Ariſaig and Uiſt, to call at Eigg and Canna, would prove highly beneficial, in facilitating the intercourſe between theſe iſlands and the continent.

The ſalt laws are an object of great complaint in this pariſh, as well as in its neighbourhood. The late alterations in theſe laws have facilitated the getting, at a moderate rate, ſalt for curing fiſh; but ſtill the cuſtom-houſe forms, to which every purchaſer of ſuch ſalt muſt ſubmit, may be conſidered as a real grievance. If a perſon wiſhes to procure 2 or 3 barrels of ſuch ſalt, to cure fiſh for the uſe of his family, he muſt enter it in a cuſtom-houſe, if it ſhould be 50 miles diſtant; he muſt grant bond and ſecurity for it. The fiſh ſalted therewith, he muſt proceed with to a cuſtom-houſe, however diſtant; there he muſt unſhip and repack it, and all this trouble and expence for a few barrels for his own family uſe. Such a grievance evidently needs a remedy. There are other purpoſes, alſo, for which ſalt is indiſpenſibly neceſſary. The lower claſs, who are the bulk of the people, are often at a loſs for this neceſſary article of life, from the ſeverity of the preſent ſalt laws. They will have it on the eaſieſt terms poſſible, whatever be the means; and the difficulty of obtaining it in a fair, encourages an illicit trade.

Another diſadvantage, under which the pariſh lies, is its great diſtance from public markets, both by land and water. This circumſtance renders it neceſſary to ſell their cattle to private

private dealers, who in general think it their intereſt, to appreciate advantages ariſing from local ſituation.

The ſtate of the roads, too, in this pariſh, may be conſidered as a diſadvantage. The roads are almoſt in a ſtate of nature. All the ſtatute labour, performed in the different iſlands, has been directed towards the building of piers, for the accommodation of fiſhing boats, and veſſels of an inferior ſize. And even theſe piers, it muſt be acknowleged, have not been conducted on a plan the moſt liberal and uſeful, nor has any of them hitherto been carried to perfection. In the county of Inverneſs, of which Eigg is a pendicle, former acts of Parliament, requiring ſtatute labour, it was found difficult to render effectual; but it is expected, that the act obtained laſt ſeſſion of Parliament may have a happier effect, and that proper attention ſhall be paid to our roads. There is not a bridge in the whole pariſh, yet it is obvious, that ſmall ones are abſolutely neceſſary in Eigg and Rum, as ſeveral of our waters become often dangerous, and even impaſſible, by heavy falls of rain, and melting of ſnow.

In this pariſh, a ſpirit of diſcontent ſeems much to prevail. Many complain of their rents, and many of their want of ſchools, beſides other inconveniencies already ſuggeſted. The ſources of redreſs are obvious.

Poſtſcript.—In the neighbourhood of the Compaſs Hill in Canna, already mentioned, another has been very lately diſcovered, that produces ſimilar effects upon the mariner's compaſs; and it is probable other places of the ſame nature might be diſcovered.

In Canna, there is a great deal of the rock called Plumb-pudding-rock, and that in ſome places connected with the baſaltic rock. A ſingular inſtance of this, is a ſteep and lofty

ty rock, called *Corraudhun*, on the top of which a ſmall ruinous building remains. Not many yards diſtant from this is a rock of the plumb pudding kind, which is ſometimes ſurrounded by the ſea. The ſide of it next the rock is nearly perpendicular. In this ſide of the rock, conſiderably above the level of the ſea, there is, in a horizontal poſition, the remains of a tree, nearly in a putrid ſtate, apparently forming a part of the ſolid rock, and having at leaſt 5 or 6 fathoms of the rock above it. There is no room to doubt that it has been wood, and its fibres have a near reſemblance to thoſe of oak. Its ſituation makes it one of the greateſt curioſities diſcovered in any country.

Among the grievances of this pariſh, may be ranked, that they never yet had a juſtice of the peace in it.

In the courſe of the laſt 20 years, the dreſs in this pariſh, as well as the neighbourhood, both of men and women, has undergone a very conſiderable change. The men in general wear hats, ſhort jackets, and long trowſers; inſtead of bonnets, ſhort coats, and philabegs; and inſtead of the tartan ſhort hoſe, ſtockings are pretty much uſed. The kerchief, formerly worn by married women, and the tonnac, or ſhort plaid, worn by females in general, are now almoſt wholly out of uſe. Inſtead of theſe, caps of various faſhions, ſhort and long cloaks, great coats, and ribbands, have been ſubſtituted. The men, ſuch of them eſpecially as follow the fiſhing, find the change in their dreſs highly convenient, and it may be preſumed that they borrowed it from the ſeafaring people, who frequented theſe iſles. Some people think that it was introduced by the Highlanders, who ſerved in the laſt American war. The change in the dreſs of the women may be thus accounted for: Moſt of our young women go to the low country for ſome weeks in harveſt; this time they ſpend in ſhearing; and with the money thus earned,

they

they endeavour to dress themselves after the low country fashion; the fashion, thus introduced, raises an emulation among the women in general, and, of course, merchants are encouraged to import like articles. The periodical migration of our young women to the low country in harvest, is entirely with a view to dress. They seldom bring home any share of the price of their labour in cash, and they are a mean of encouraging an extravagance of dress. So intent are they on this object, that from Whitsunday to Martinmas, they will not accept of service at home; and, except the few weeks spent in the low country, they are a burden to their friends for this half year. If manufactures, particularly the woollen, were established among us, our young women might find constant employment at home, mutually advantageous to themselves and to the public.

In this parish there may be about 1100 cows, about 540 stirks, and 500 two year olds.

NUM-

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF BOTHKENNAR.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF STIRLING.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING).

By the Rev. Mr DAVID DICKSON, *Minister.*

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE writer of this account has not been able to discover the origin of the name Bothkennar. This parish is situated in that track of country commonly called the Carse of Falkirk; is about a mile and a half in length, and nearly of equal breadth. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Airth; on the west, by the parish of Larbert; on the south, by the parishes of Falkirk and Polmont; and on the east, by the river Forth. It seems antiently to have been bounded on the south by the river Carron, but that river having changed its course, now intersects both the parishes of Bothkennar and Falkirk, leaving part of the former on the south, and a small part of the latter upon the north side of it. The parish contains 96 oxgangs of land, which, at the computation of 13 acres each, amount in whole to 1248; the yearly valuation of which, including cess, feu-duty payable to the family of Marr, and minister's stipend, is 3591 l. 12 s. 6 d. Scotch. The real rent of the parish cannot be so exactly

exactly aſcertained, as it may vary according to the value of the ground, or the date of the leaſes; at a medium, it may be reckoned at leaſt at 2 l. 5 s. per acre, which would amount to 2808 l. Sterling; and when the price of grain is high, it may be conſiderably more.

Soil, Produce, &c.—The ſoil is moſtly of a deep clay, and the land, which is believed to have been antiently covered by the waters of the neighbouring Frith, is, in general, very rich, and produces plentiful crops of oats, peaſe, and beans, barley. wheat, graſs, and potatoes. Mr Nimmo, in his hiſtory of Stirlingſhire, informs us, that as early as the 14th century, (when, in compariſon, little improvement had been made in agriculture), the yearly feu-duty paid to the Crown, out of the pariſh of Bothkennar alone, was no leſs than 26 chalders of victual, beſides 6 chalders paid to the Abbacy of Cambuſkenneth. About that time, or probably at a later period, the price of grain was ſo very low, that the proprietors of land in the pariſhes of Airth and Bothkennar had it in their option, when paying the feu-duty, to pay either a merk Scotch or a boll of wheat. The former wiſely chuſe to pay in money, which they ſtill do; and the latter in grain, which, inſtead of a merk Scotch, has, for many years paſt, been equal in value to 20 s. 25 s. or ſometimes even 30 s. Sterling. This pariſh is almoſt a continued flat; there is ſcarcely the leaſt riſing ground to be obſerved through the whole of it, and not a ſtone to be ſeen, unleſs brought from other places. Excepting the roads, there is not a ſpot of ground uncultivated. The method of cultivation, the time of ſowing and reaping, the wages of ſervants, tradeſmen, and day-labourers, the prices of coal, grain, and proviſions, are in general nearly the ſame as in the pariſhes of Airth and Polmont, to the ſtatiſtical accounts of which the reader is here

here referred. There are 12 orchards in this parish, the largest of which is about 3 acres in extent. They produce chiefly apples and pears, and, in good fruit seasons, bring the proprietors a plentiful return.

Population, &c.—According to a list of the inhabitants, taken by the present minister in 1783, the number of souls was then about 730; but since that time it has considerably decreased, owing, among other causes, to the shipping having been, in a great measure, removed from Carron shore to Grangemouth, on which account, several houses in this parish have been taken down, and others are left without inhabitants. In the year 1793, another list was taken, from which it appears, that there are now only 144 families, and in all about 600 inhabitants, of whom 303 are males, and 297 females; 164 married, and 436 unmarried; among which last, 45 are widowers and widows, and 133 children below 10 years of age. The number of marriages, baptisms, and burials, for the last 10 years, according to the parish register, which, during that time, has been very regularly kept, is as follows:

Years.	*Marriages.*	*Baptisms.*	*Burials.*
1783	5	21	15
1784	2	23	9
1785	8	12	7
1786	2	20	9
1787	6	23	10
1788	7	17	16
1789	8	23	10
1790	12	10	9
	50	149	85

of whom are non-reſident. The patronage belongs to the family of Airth, who have always exerciſed that right in a manner that does them the higheſt honour. The late Mr Graham, who had a particular pleaſure in promoting the happineſs of thoſe around him, (although not a member of the Eſtabliſhed Preſbyterian Church), was accuſtomed to indulge the people with the choice of their own paſtors; by doing ſo, he obtained juſt and univerſal eſteem while he lived, and on this account his memory will long be highly reſpected. If other patrons were of the ſame diſpoſition, the law of patronage, ſo long complained of, would ceaſe from being a grievance; and inſtead of that frequent diſcord and animoſity, which are ſo deſtructive to the civil and religious intereſts of our country, peace and harmony would every where prevail.

School and Poor.—There is only one ſchool in this pariſh, at which 50 or 60 children are yearly taught Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, &c. The ſchoolmaſter has a houſe and ſmall garden. His ſalary is only 100 merks Scotch, which, together with voluntary contributions from ſome of the heritors, his ſchool wages, and perquiſites as ſeſſion-clerk, ſcarcely exceed 20 l. Sterling *per annum*. It is much to be wiſhed, that, in this age of liberality and improvement, ſomething were done for the encouragement of ſchoolmaſters, many of whom, having families to ſupport, muſt often be ſtraitened to obtain even the neceſſaries of life.—The poor in the pariſh are not allowed to beg from door to door. The number upon the Seſſion roll is at preſent 7, who receive a weekly allowance, beſides a few who get occaſional ſupply. They are ſupported by the weekly collections, with the intereſt of 130 l. Sterling, which together amount at an average, for 10 years paſt, to 34 l. 10 s. yearly.

A

A few poor ſcholars alſo have their ſchool wages and books paid from the ſame fund.

Roads and Improvements.—The roads in this pariſh, which old people remember to have been once ſcarcely paſſable, are now in general good, unleſs for a ſhort time during the winter, when the ground is very wet, or when covered with water, owing to the tide and land floods meeting together. Within theſe few years, a conſiderable extent of ground has been gained in this pariſh and neighbourhood from the Frith, which, though defended at a great expence, will ſoon become a valuable acquiſition to its poſſeſſors. There is a bridge ſoon to be built over the river Carron, a little above Grangemouth, and a new road to be carried from thence acroſs this pariſh, towards Alloa and Stirling, which are likely to be of great advantage to the inhabitants, and will open a nearer and more agreeable communication both to the north and ſouth.

NUM-

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF WHITEBURN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW.—SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDALE.)

Written in 1793.

Name.

WHITEBURN, now commonly written and pronounced *Whitburn*, according to ſome, took its name from a conſiderable number of families, of the name of White, living along the ſide of a burn or rivulet, which runs through great part of the pariſh; but more probably from being near another of the name of *Blackburn*.

Extent.—The pariſh is about 6 miles long, and, at an average, between 2 and 3 broad. It is bounded, on the eaſt, by Livingſton; on the weſt by Shotts, and part of Cambuſnethan; on the ſouth, by Weſt Calder; and on the north, by Bathgate and part of Shotts.

Situation and Surface.—This pariſh is in the county and preſbytery of Linlithgow, and ſynod of Lothian and Tweedale. The ſoil is generally what may be called loam, inclining to clay; and, in ſome places, having a mixture of moſs, with a ſtrong clay or till bottom.

Towards

Towards the middle of the weſt end, there is a high ridge about two and a half miles long, and, in ſome places, above a mile broad, of very deep barren moſs, part of which, however, is known to contain a valuable ſeam of coal; and preparations are now making to have it wrought. The ſame ſeam of coal has been wrought for above ſeventy years paſt, at Burnhar, in the adjoining p riſh of Shotts, and ſtill continues working; having now approached within a few hundred yards of the boundaries of Whiteburn pariſh. The pariſh is chiefly under tillage; a few black cattle being paſtured upon particular ſpots of almoſt every farm.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The climate is damp and cold, though not unhealthy. Rheumatiſm, ſlow nervous fevers, and conſumptions, are, perhaps, the moſt general diſeaſes. Inſtances of longevity are not unfrequent. Several perſons, within the laſt 50 years, have died upwards of 90; and at preſent there are ſome living between 80 and 90. The ſmall-pox is not remarkably mortal here, though inoculation is extremely little in uſe. The few inſtances, however, where it has been practiſed, have been always ſucceſsful, no perſon in the pariſh recollecting a fatal experiment of this kind; but ſtill the prejudices of the common people are inveterate againſt this ſalutary practice.

Rivers.—Almond water runs through the north part of the pariſh, and Breich water along the ſouth ſide of it. The canal propoſed to be cut between Edinburgh and Glaſgow, muſt be carried through at leaſt a part of the pariſh. The whole pariſh is well ſupplied with good wholeſome water, from ſprings in almoſt every quarter of it.

Horſes,

Horſes, Sheep, &c.—There are about 200 horſes in the pariſh, and but very few ſheep, of late years, ſince the grounds have been moſtly incloſed and tilled. A good many horſes and black cattle are bred for ſale.

Population.—The population of the pariſh is certainly increaſed within theſe 40 years. In 1755, it amounted to 1121 ſouls. Laſt year, when a pretty exact account of the numbers of the pariſh was taken, they were found to be 1322 ſouls. When the firſt calculation was made, there was no village in the pariſh: At preſent there is a village, which contains about 500 ſouls. But the cot-houſes, which were formerly ſcattered through the pariſh, are now almoſt all demoliſhed, and thoſe who poſſeſſed them have removed to the village. A perſon who has reſided long in a public ſtation in the pariſh, remarks, that not above a third part of the preſent heads of families are natives of the place.

Extent of Farms.—There has been little alteration in the extent of farms for the laſt 50 years.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.—The number of births cannot be given with preciſion; but they are computed about 30 yearly. The burials are about 24 in the year; but ſome bury in Weſt-Calder, and ſome few in Livingſton—The marriages are from 12 to 15 annually. A great proportion of them is irregular.

Rent of the Pariſh.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 4244 l. 2 s. 11 d. Scots; the real rent is about 1800 l. or 2000 l. Sterling. The rent of farms is in general from 7 s. 6d. to 20s. per acre, according as they lie nearer to, or more remote from,

from the high road. The rent of houſes in the village is about 20 s. in the year.

Proprietors, Tenants, &c.—There are only two conſiderable proprietors in the pariſh. Eight poſſeſs property from 50 l. to 150 l. a-year; and there are about 16 portioners. Of the conſiderable proprietors, one reſides occaſionally in the pariſh; and of the ſecond claſs, one half is reſident. There is one farmer in the pariſh, who rents a farm of rather more than 150 l *per annum.* There are a few others, whoſe rent exceeds 50 l. There is one phyſician, and one ſurgeon in the pariſh.

Trades.—In the village there are 3 ſhopkeepers. Within the pariſh there are 20 weavers, who work chiefly for Glaſgow and Lanark. About 50 young people, from 9 to 30 years of age, are employed in the flowering of muſlins for Glaſgow, earning uſually about 10 d. or 1 s. a day. In the village there is a cotton manufactory, employing about 30 or 40 hands, at about 1 s. a day.

In the pariſh there are generally about

15 Maſons and wrights
10 Shoemakers
6 Taylors
2 Bakers, and ſometimes a butcher
4 Public-houſes, and
6 Ale-houſes, which laſt are tolerably well frequented.

Crops.—Oats and potatoes are almoſt the only general crops. When oats are ſown after potatoes, the ground is ſeldom plowed. There is raiſed a good deal of rye-graſs and clover, and a tolerable quantity of flax for family uſe. The oats are ſown from the middle or end of March to the

beginning of May. There is little more meal made than what is uſed in the pariſh, the farmers generally thinking it more advantageous to diſpoſe of their oats to the public-houſes in their neighbourhood. The oats produce from 9 to 13 pecks of meal from the boll. Both ſpring time and harveſt are generally wet.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—There are three clergymen in the pariſh; the miniſters of the Eſtabliſhed Church, of the Burgher, and of the Antiburgher congregations. To the Eſtabliſhed Church there adheres about a third part of the pariſh. To the Burgher congregation belongs by far the greater part of the remaining two thirds. Only a few individuals of this pariſh belong to the Antiburgher congregation, the reſt of its members coming from Weſt Calder, and other pariſhes.

Perhaps the following circumſtances may, in ſome meaſure, at leaſt, account for the great proportion of Seceders in this pariſh. Whiteburn was formerly part of the pariſh of Livingſton; but was disjoined from it, and erected into a ſeparate pariſh, anno 1730. The erection was made in conſequence of a ſum of money having been raiſed, by a voluntary ſubſcription over all Scotland, which, after building a church and manſe, and purchaſing ground for a glebe, was thought ſufficient, by its yearly produce, for the maintenance of a pariſh miniſter. Several of the heritors were liberal in ſubſcribing, active in procuring ſubſcriptions, and zealous in carrying on the proceſs of erection before the Court of Teinds, from entertaining the idea, that the miniſter was to be choſen by the pariſh at large. The patron of Livingſton, however, was found, by the Houſe of Lords, to be, *ex neceſſitate*, patron of Whiteburn, which had been disjoined from it. And this gave ſuch univerſal offence in the pariſh, as threw the greater part of it, gradually, into the Seceſſion.

Another

Another circumſtance farther increaſed the diſſatisfaction of ſome of the ſmaller heritors, and their inclination to ſecede. They imagined, that the rent of certain lands in the pariſh of Shotts, which had been purchaſed with the ſubſcription money, was to be all the maintenance to which their miniſter was to be entitled: But this turned out to be by no means the caſe; for a few months after the decreet of patronage by the Houſe of Lords, the miniſter was preferred to 28 l. 6 s. 8 d. additional ſtipend, out of the teinds of the pariſh, by the Lords Commiſſioners of teinds for Scotland. The chagrin occaſioned by theſe two circumſtances continues ſtill ſo ſtrong, that not many, even of the moſt ſenſible in the pariſh, can talk with any degree of patience of patronage, or augmentation of ſtipends.

Sir William Auguſtus Cunningham, Bart. is patron of the pariſh. The preſent incumbent, Mr James Rhind, was admitted miniſter of Whiteburn in 1790. His only predeceſſors were Mr Alexander Wardrobe, deceaſed; Dr Porteous of Glaſgow; Profeſſor Baron of St. Andrews; and Mr Sommerville of Stirling, to the laſt of whom he ſucceeded. He has been married about twelve months, and has one child. His income is 125 l. of ſtipend, and 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. of communion elements, which, with the manſe and glebe, may be eſtimated in all at 140 l. *per annum*. Of the ſtipend, 100 l. ariſes from a feu of two farms in the pariſh of Shotts; and the remainder is the augmented ſtipend. The church is a good, large building; but ſtands much in need of being repaired. The manſe is an old, but tolerably good, houſe, and in decent repair.

Poor.—The number of poor upon the pariſh roll is uſually about 10. They are maintained, at preſent, by the collections in the church, and by a voluntary ſubſcription over the pariſh, which are diſtributed by the ſeſſion, under the inſpection

inſpection of the heritors and ſubſcribers. The ſum which muſt be raiſed in this way is about 40 l. Sterling annually, as the poor, according as they are ſingle, or married; able to work a little, or none at all; have allowances of from 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. a week.

Manners and Morals.—A tolerable degree of induſtry prevails in the pariſh, and the morals of the people are as good as throughout the country at large.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The great diſadvantage under which the pariſh labours, is wetneſs in almoſt all ſeaſons, particularly in ſeed time and harveſt. Coals abound in the pariſh, and are to be had both in it, and the eaſt part of Shotts almoſt adjoining to it, at 6 d. per load, weighing two and a half cwt. Lime is eaſily driven from the neighbouring pariſhes of Bathgate and Livingſtone, as the high roads from Glaſgow to Edinburgh, and from Borrowſtounneſs to Cleugh, run through the pariſh in oppoſite directions. Freeſtone quarries are open in ſeveral parts of the pariſh.

Edinburgh affords a ready market for moſt of the produce of the farms, as calves, poultry, cheeſe, and butter, which are bought up, and taken there by carriers. There is alſo a conſiderable traffic in milk cows, to ſupply the Edinburgh cow-feeders. The pariſh and neighbourhood abounds with dealers in black cattle. Theſe dealers, by requiring graſs parks to hold the cattle they have on hand, give great encouragement to incloſing and planting. For ſuch parks as are tolerably fenced and ſheltered, they pay from 15 s. to 25 s. per acre. Many people in the pariſh make a livelihood by keeping a horſe and cart, with which they drive grain from Leith and Dalkeith to Glaſgow, and often bring a load of pig-iron, in returning, from the iron works lately eſtabliſhed in that neighbourhood.

NUM-

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF MEARNS.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.—PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY.—SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE M'LATCHIE, *Minister.*

Situation, Extent, and Surface.

THE parish of Mearns is situated in Renfrewshire, in the presbytery of Paisley, and provincial synod of Glasgow and Ayr. Its centre is about 8 miles distant from Glasgow, and nearly as far from Paisley. Its length, from east to west, is 6 miles, and its breadth about 3½. It stands high above the level of Clyde. There are no considerable hills in it, but the face of the ground is beautifully diversified by a great variety of waving swells. It rises gradually from the east extremity to the west, where the moor or commonty lies.

Soil and Produce.—The soil is all of a light and quick kind, lying on a bed of rotten rock, excepting some small tracks in the lower part of the parish, which have a clay bottom. It is chiefly remarkable for its fine pasture. It produces grass both in greater quantity than common, and likewise of the very best kinds, and it every where abounds with a profusion of white clover. The greater part of the lands is in pasturage. Every farm is stocked with milk cows; and the principal

principal object of the farmer is to produce butter, and butter milk, for the Glaſgow market. The butter that is made here, and eſpecially that which is ſalted for winter's uſe, is reckoned preferable to any other, and the demand for it is vaſtly greater than can be anſwered. It has nothing of that rancid taſte, which butter made on deeper and heavier ſoils is ſometimes found to have; and it keeps in good condition for a very long time. Potatoes are raiſed for domeſtic uſe, and ſome barley and oats, but ſcarcely ſo much of the latter as can ſupply the pariſh. It is but a few years ſince ſown graſſes were introduced. Leſs attention, perhaps, than they deſerve, have been paid to theſe, on account of the great crops of natural graſs which the ſoil, in many places, is fitted to produce. Two hundred ſtone of this graſs is often raiſed upon one acre; in ſome particular ſpots, 260, or even 280, and this, too, for a great ſucceſſion of years. This natural graſs ſells one penny, or three-halfpence per ſtone cheaper than the beſt clover and rye-graſs. Field turnips have hitherto been ſown only in ſmall quantities.

Cows.—Moſt of the cows here are of a middle ſize, and of a brown and white colour. They give from 10 to 15 Scotch pints of milk per day. Some of them, during the prime of the graſs, give 17 or 18 pints. There are not a few farmers, however, whoſe cows, upon, an average, do not give above 8 Scotch pints per day. This is owing to their want of care to get a proper breed, and to their keeping more of them upon their ground than it is able ſufficiently to paſture. Their queys, too, are much injured, by being kept in the Moor of Mearns, where they are only half fed; and from this circumſtance, they never afterwards attain the ſize, nor give the quantity of milk, which thoſe cows do that have been reared with care at home.

The

The churning of milk makes a great and laborious part of the farmers work. Of late they have introduced the uſe of churning-mills driven by water. There are many ſtreams which run through the pariſh, and anſwer for theſe mills, and, on trial, they prove highly beneficial, and ſave a great deal of labour.

Moor.—The commonty belonging to the heritors is about 1600 acres in extent. It is always covered with the moſt beautiful verdure, and produces very good graſs and clover, without any heath or bent. Were it once divided, it would need nothing but ſhelter and incloſing to render it extremely valuable. At preſent the heritors receive little benefit from it, as it is under no proper management. There are ſteps taking to bring about a diviſion of it, which will both tend to enrich the proprietors, and add to the beauty of the pariſh. In this commonty there are three lochs, well ſtocked with fiſh. One of theſe, called the Brother Loch, is about three miles in circumference, and abounds with char and trout. The other two, the Little Loch and the Black Loch, are of a ſmaller ſize. Theſe lochs afford plentiful ſupplies of water for the public works, in this and the neighbouring pariſh of Eaſtwood.

Heritors and Rent.—The landed property of the pariſh is at preſent divided among 60 heritors, the greater part of whom are reſident. The principal ones, according to their valuation, are Miſs Pollok of Pollok; Sir Michael Stuart of Blackhall, Bart.; Mr Hugh Hutchiſon of Southfield; Mr Brown of Caplerig; Mr Maitland Hutcheſon of Greenbank; Mr Logan of Fingleton; and Mr Wilſon of Netherhouſe. Several of theſe are reſident. They have excellent modern manſion-houſes on their eſtates, and are exemplary and active

in

in promoting around them a ſpirit of induſtry and improvement.

The rent of land is high. Excluſive of the moor, it may be, on an average, 26 s. per acre. Some parts of it are let in paſture, at 50 s. per acre; and there are ſome conſiderable proprietors, who can let the whole of their lands for paſture, at 44 s. per acre. About 26 years ago, the average rent was not above 7 s. or 8 s. per acre. The lands then were not incloſed, and it was uſual to have a great part of them in conſtant tillage, which gave the moſt miſerable returns; and what was in paſture was always overſtocked with cattle, which were therefore kept in a ſtarving condition. The profits of the farmer, of conſequence, were ſmall, he paid his rent with difficulty, and lived poorly. The incloſing of the lands, and an induſtrious and judicious management of them, as well as the increaſe in the value of the articles of produce, enable the preſent tenants to live comfortably, and to pay their rents with punctuality.—The valued rent of the pariſh is 4711 l. 6 s. 6 d. Scots. The real rent is probably near 5000 l. Sterling.

Manufactures.—There are two cotton mills in this pariſh, at Buſhby on the water of Cart, both belonging to the ſame proprietors. The one of theſe was erected in 1780, and the other about two years ago. The number of people employed in both mills are as follows:

Of males under 15 years there are	100
Of females under 15 — —	110
Of males above 15 — —	60
Of females above 15 — —	90
	360

Two

Two bleachfields have been lately eſtabliſhed. One of theſe, at Wellmeadow, employs 13 men and 26 women. The other, at Broom, which has juſt begun work this ſummer, employs 11 men and eleven women.

Church, Poor, and School.—Sir Michael Stewart of Blackhall, Bart. is patron. The ſtipend is 5 chalders of meal, and 27 l. 13 s. Sterling of money. No augmentation has ever yet been demanded. The glebe conſiſts of about 4 acres of arable land. A very good manſe was built in 1789, and the church was fitted up in a very neat and commodious manner in 1792. There has long been an Antiburgher meeting-houſe here. The congregation, which is not near ſo numerous now as formerly, is made up of people belonging to this pariſh, and to ſome of the adjoining pariſhes. There are, likewiſe, in the pariſh, a few Burghers and Cameronians. It is pleaſant to ſee the happy effects of toleration. Time has ſoftened the rancour of party among theſe ſeceders from the Eſtabliſhed Church, and almoſt all of them live in good neighbourhood, and diſcover a ſpirit of Chriſtian charity and moderation.

There are but few poor in the pariſh. Theſe are ſupported in the uſual way, by collections made at the church, by the intereſt of a ſmall accumulated fund, by the profits of the mort-cloth, and by the dues ariſing from the publication of the banns of marriage. There are no begging poor belonging to the pariſh.

There is a parochial ſchoolmaſter, who has a ſalary of 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, beſides the uſual ſmall ſchool-fees, and an allowance of 30 s. as ſeſſion clerk. There is the ſame reaſon to complain here, as in moſt other places, that the emoluments of the ſchoolmaſter are no way adequate to the quali-

fications generally expected, and to the labour and fatigue required.

Population.—From an accurate account taken in 1792, it appeared that there were in the pariſh 1430 ſouls at that time. Of males, 675—of females, 755.

Under 15 years of age — —	562
From 15 to 70 — —	841
Above 70 — — —	27
	1430

According to Dr Webſter's account, in 1755, there were 886 ſouls in the pariſh.

The preſent very conſiderable increaſe of population, is chiefly owing to the introduction of manufactures, and to the addition of inhabitants to the village of Newton. This is the only village in the pariſh, and it has of late increaſed greatly. There are at preſent 47 families in it. The moſt of theſe are the families of tradeſmen and common labourers.

Character of the People.—The people of this pariſh are ſober, induſtrious, and oeconomical; reſpectful to their ſuperiors, and uncommonly friendly and obliging. They are rational in their religious ſentiments, and moderate in their religious zeal. All of them are ſtrongly attached to our preſent civil conſtitution, and cautiouſly avoid giving countenance to any change or innovation in it. It is happy for them, that they pretend not to make politics their ſtudy. They mind the duties and buſineſs of their own ſtation, and wiſh to enjoy, with thankfulneſs and peace, the many bleſſings which a kind providence beſtows on them.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The only antiquity here is the Caſtle of Mearns. It is a large ſquare tower, ſituated on a rocky

rocky eminence, and commanding an extenſive and beautiful proſpect. It is not known when it was built. It is ſuppoſed to be ſeveral hundred years old, and to have been uſed as a place of defence. It was ſurrounded by a ſtrong wall, and the entrance was ſecured by a draw-bridge. It is now, however, greatly diſmantled and out of repair, the family of Blackhall, to whom it belongs, having their reſidence at Ardgowan.

The roads are in good condition, and the beſt materials are every where at hand for making them. The great road from Glaſgow to Kilmarnock runs through the whole length of the pariſh; as does alſo the road from Glaſgow to Stewarton. The road from Paiſley to Kilbride and Hamilton croſſes the pariſh from north to ſouth. There are alſo many private roads. Theſe were formerly made and repaired by ſtatute labour, but an act of Parliament is now paſſed, for converting the ſtatute labour of this county into money. There are no diſeaſes peculiar to this pariſh. Inoculation for the ſmall-pox is gradually gaining ground. There is neither free ſtone, nor lime, nor coal in the pariſh, but all theſe are to be had in plenty at no great diſtance.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF WALLS AND FLOTA.

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND—PRESBYTERY OF CAIRSLEY.—SYNOD OF ORKNEY).

By the Rev. Mr JAMES BREMNER, *Miniſter.*

Name.

WALLS ſometimes ſignifies the pariſh only, and ſometimes it is taken for the whole iſland. In old maps it is ſpelt *Waes*, and its preſent pronunciation is uniformly as if written *Waas*, a corruption, probably, of *Voes*, which originally, and at this day, ſignifies a conſiderable inlet or bay, where ſhips anchor; and in theſe this end of the iſland abounds, as *Lyar voe*, *Thur voe*, *Oſmand voe*. Here it may be remarked, as a thing not improbable, that Kirkwall, the chief town of the county, was originally *Kirk-voe*.

Population.—By an accurate liſt taken in 1788, the inhabitants of all ages, in both the united pariſhes of Walls and Flota, ſtood thus:

In the ſouth ſide of Walls —	451
In the north ſide ditto — —	233
In Faira and Flota — —	236
	920

By

By lists taken in April 1794, the population stands thus:

In the south side	—	—	449
In the north side	—	—	302
In Faira and Flota	—	—	240
			991

The population, in 1755, was 1000 souls.

What accounts for this increase of 71 is, the settlement of a colony of Highlanders, who had been forced to emigrate from Strathnaven, where their farms were converted into sheep pasture.

These people, it would appear, had been comfortably situated in their former residence, as they all brought with them, to this place, a very considerable stock in horses, cows, sheep, and goats, and also in grain. As to all other property, every man of them might truly say, *Omnia mea mecum porto.* Their household furniture must therefore be described negatively. No bed, no table, no chair. These the Highlander does not reckon among the necessaries of life, as he can make the earth serve him for all the three.

In his shealing, composed of earth and a few sticks, you find no other furniture than a few dishes for his milk, and a barrel for his meal: So true in fact, as well as philosophy, is the maxim, *Natura contenta est paucis.*

Cattle.—The number of horses in the parish is about 235

The number of cows and queys	—	400	
The average value of horses and cows is from 1 l. 15 s. to 2 l. Hence the value of the whole horses and cows may be about			Sterl. L. 1200
Foals of a year old, 21, at 1 l. each		—	21
Calves of a year old, 65, at 10 s.	—	—	32
		Carried forward,	L. 1253

	Brought over,	L. 1253
Swine, 133, value about 5 s.	— —	33
Sheep from Tweedſmuir, 700, at 9 s. each		315
Twenty ditto rams, at 1 l. 1 s. each	— —	21
Sheep of Orkney breed, 900, at 3 s. each	—	135
		L. 1757

It may be thought, perhaps, that the horſes are valued too low; but the fact is otherwiſe. The horſes in this iſland are inferior in value to thoſe of the main land and North Iſles. This is owing, probably, to the number reared in the iſland, and the leſs frequent renewal of the breed, from the horſes annually imported into this country from Strathnaver and Sutherland, as well as to the very different manner in which they are maintained here and in the main-land. In the latter, there is a great emulation among the farmers to have the beſt horſes. Their horſes are conſequently fed at an extravagant expence, and thereby rendered of a better quality.

The above ſtatement of the ſheep is formed from a plan adopted about two years ago, by Mr Moodie of Milſetter. According to this plan, the whole were converted into a common ſtock, betwixt Mr Moodie himſelf, his tenants, and a ſhepherd; but the tenants not entering heartily into the ſcheme, the buſineſs now reſts almoſt entirely betwixt Mr Moodie and the ſhepherd.

The trial is yet of too ſhort a ſtanding to form any certain judgment how far it may be ſucceſsful, or otherwiſe; only this much already appears in its favour, that the ſouth country ſheep have agreed very well with the change of paſture.

Until the above alteration took place, the number of ſheep in the pariſh was uſually about 2000, diſtinguiſhed by

above

above 150 different marks; and, being the property of the inhabitants in general, were left to range at random over the iſland. They were never houſed, nor one of them taken without a dog. They ſeparated themſelves into different flocks, and had their particular places of reſort, the ſame flock always frequenting the ſame place. Every owner knew the marks and haunts, not only of his own ſheep, but alſo, in general, thoſe of all his neighbours; ſo that if any of them chanced to ſtray into a new walk, they were ſoon diſcovered, and their owners, without any trouble or expence, knew where to find them.

Where ſheep are ſo wild as to be taken only by means of a dog, it might ſeem extremely difficult to take any particular one out of a large number; but thoſe in the practice of it can, in a few minutes, take one of any given deſcription out of a thouſand.

Sheepmen are commonly ſworn to fidelity in their office; and when a ſheep is to be taken, one of theſe ſets out with his dog cloſe at his foot, or carrying him in his arms, that the ſheep may allow him to approach near enough to diſcover the mark. This point gained, he advances more briſkly, when the flock begin to break and divide before him, and, in proportion as the diviſion which carries with it the marked one diminiſhes its number, it increaſes in fear and ſpeed. The man, no longer equal to the taſk, aſſigns it to his companion, by this time grown impatient to act his part. Such ſheep as now happen to be before the dog, begin preſently to break into new diviſions, whilſt the ſheepman, keeping a ſharp eye on the object of his purſuit, directs every motion of his dog by a different call, by the courſe he himſelf takes, or even by the waving of his hand; all which being readily underſtood and obeyed by a well trained dog, the victim is ſoon ſeized, and, for moſt part, without receiving any material

terial injury. The more ſagacious ſheep dogs trip them over by laying hold of one of their fore legs, and thereby effectually prevents them from advancing a ſtep farther. When the ſheep finds himſelf thus overcome, he ceaſes all further effort, and lies almoſt motionleſs at the feet of the dog, until the ſheepman lays hold of him.

Climate.—The Orkney Iſlands, ſituated at the extremity of the iſland of Great Britain, can only have a land breeze from two or three points ſoutherly. As the wind, in every other direction, comes from the German, Northern, or Atlantic oceans, it muſt neceſſarily be damp and cold. That this is the caſe in Orkney, will appear from the following circumſtance: Planting of wood has frequently been tried in different places in this iſland, and always without ſucceſs; ſo long as the plant is ſheltered by ſurrounding houſes, or high walls, it will make progreſs; but, where theſe are wanting, it may indeed live, perhaps for ages, but will never be able to reach its natural perfection. A plant of aſh, for example, 3 feet in height, may, in the courſe of 7 years, equal a wall of 6 feet high; but it might ſtand a century without gaining 3 feet more in height, or 3 inches more in diameter.

Agriculture.—The only kinds of grain uſually ſown here are a ſmall kind of barley, and ſmall grey oats. Now and then, a few people, by way of trial, ſow white oats and peaſe, an experiment that has been tried repeatedly for generations paſt, and which every new comer from the ſouth country may perhaps repeat for generations to come; but of which the advantage will never be ſo apparent as to bring it into general practice.

It may be aſked, What ſhould hinder white oats from growing here? The anſwer may perhaps be this, The ſitu-

ation,

ation, the ſoil, the ſeaſon, and the climate, are unfavourable to them. Theſe yield very little to art; it therefore becomes the buſineſs of art to adapt herſelf to them. It is for this reaſon that the farmers in this county do not begin their oat ſeed till the beginning or middle of April; nor their bear ſeed, till the beginning or middle of May, the ſeaſons when the one and the other are uſually over in the ſouth of Scotland. Not that the farmers here are not equally aware, as their neighbours, of the danger of a late harveſt; but that their experience convinces them no leſs of the danger of too early a ſeed time.

It muſt not, however, be denied, that the improvements which might be made here, by incloſing, fallowing, and green crops, have been hitherto too much neglected.

Churches, Manſe, &c.—The church of Walls formerly ſtood at the Kirkhope, but is now in a more centrical ſituation, on the ſouth ſide of the Longhope. It was built about the year 1743, and laſt year was thoroughly repaired. It is rather ſmall for the pariſh, but commodiouſly contrived and well ſeated. The church of Flota had ſtood for many years without a roof; but, about 12 years ago, it was roofed in, being thatched with heather, and furniſhed with new ſeats and new windows.

The manſe was built in 1782, not where it formerly ſtood, and where the glebe ſtill is, on the top of the Hill of Fea on the ſouth ſide, but on the north ſide of Longhope, almoſt oppoſite to the church. The former ſituation, in point of proſpect, dryneſs of its ſtance, and convenience in being near the church, as well as in ſome other reſpects, was far preferable to the preſent. But in a country where there are few days, even in ſummer, that a fire can be diſpenſed with, the article of fuel comes to be a matter of material conſe-

quence. The present incumbent, therefore, chose to have his manse on the north side, where there is peat ground in abundance, and very near, rather than where it formerly was, with the above advantages, but with the disadvantage of carrying peats from a considerable distance, both by land and water, with much trouble, and at a considerable expence.

When the present manse was built, it was likewise intended to excamb the glebe; and it was in great forwardness to be accomplished, when some election punctilio put a stop to it. Mr Moodie of Melsetter, on whose property the manse stands, still proposes to complete the excambion, to which the present incumbent is ready to accede, being persuaded that it would be for the interest of his successors, as well as for his own.

The present rent of the glebe is 5 l. 11 s. in money; and the tenant has lately had a small croft, formerly let to a cottar, given him without any additional rent. The glebe was much injured in the last incumbent's * time, by a planking which never was authorised by his presbytery; but, as the division stands at present, it is pretty extensive and improveable.

The stipend, in money, paid by Mr Moodie of Melsetter, amounts to —	L. 25	2	2½
Communion element money, by ditto	2	4	5
Out of the bishopric, in money —	8	6	8
Out of ditto, in malt, 28 meils, at a medium price, about 10 s. — —	14	0	0
Payable for the island of Flota —	1	13	4
Glebe as above — — —	5	11	0
	L. 56	17	7½

* Mr Grey.

Produce.

Produce.—The quantity of kelp made yearly is about 80 tons, and coſts from 1 l. 5 s. to 1 l. 10 s. per ton of 24 cwt. for burning. About 20 years ago, for the ſame quantity, the prices were only from 15 s. to 20 s. or, on the very worſt ſhores, 1 l. 1 s.

Fiſh.—The cod fiſhing here is extremely precarious; the fiſh being ſome ſeaſons remarkably plenty, and at others equally ſcarce. At ſome periods, for months together, there will not be ſo many fiſh caught in a boat, as, on a diviſion, to be a fiſh for each man. At other periods, on the ſame ground, and in the ſame ſpace of time, the boats will be loaded as deep as they can ſwim. From 50,000 to 70,000 cod have been often cured here in one ſeaſon.

When the fiſhing is good, there may be about 12 boats, with 6 men each, that uſually follow that buſineſs; at other times, about half that number follow it occaſionally. Every cod, meaſuring 14 inches and upwards, from the ſhoulder fin to that next the tail, coſts 2 d. All under 14 inches to 11 inches coſt 1 d. each.

The lobſter fiſhing is carried on in Orkney by about 60 boats, with only two men to each boat. At an average they may catch about 2000 lobſters to each boat, making annually from 100,000 to 120,000 fiſh, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. each. The number of boats have been conſtantly increaſing for theſe ſeveral years paſt, and are ſtill increaſing; but it is not likely that the number of fiſh caught will be thereby increaſed: For it is found by experience, that all the fiſh on any particular ſpot are ſoon picked up, and that, at the end of a fiſhing ſeaſon, they become very ſcarce every where.

Poor.—The number of poor in the pariſh is, in ordinary, about 20. The annual collections ſeldom exceed 3 l. 10 s.

This

This is totally inadequate to their ſupport; but the charity of the pariſh is not to be eſtimated by the trifle contributed in money. The people are far from being deficient in this virtue; many of them poſſeſs it in a conſiderable degree, and exerciſe it liberally in proportion to their abilities. They occaſionally ſend ſupplies of the neceſſaries of life to the abodes of the neceſſitous; and if, at any time, this ſupply fails, the latter make an occaſional tour, and the intention of the viſit is perfectly underſtood. The charitable know the neceſſitous, and the neceſſitous know equally well the charitable. If there be any who are unable to travel, their caſe is always particularly attended to. When the preſent incumbent firſt underſtood how trifling the funds were, and the deſtitute and helpleſs condition of ſome of the poor, he was much concerned to think of the miſery to which ſome of them might ſometimes be reduced; but was no leſs pleaſed to be informed, that there exiſted here a ſpontaneous mode of charity, founded on the principles of nature and duty, equal in its effects to any political inſtitution whatever.

Character.—The people are very peaceable and inoffenſive, apparently very ſimple, but in fact abundantly ſhrewd. Their addreſs is without embarraſſment or rudeneſs, but not without a degree of politeneſs and good manners, though ſometimes an affectation of refinement in the laſt, makes it ridiculous. What has been ſaid of their charity, may ſerve as a criterion of their ſenſe of religious obligation. Being ſtrangers to all the different opinions of ſectaries, they are ſtrangers alſo to thoſe vain diſputations, violent diſſentions, and ſtrifes about words, ſo frequently to be met with in other places.

Their

Their attendance at church, and on all religious ordinances, is punctual; and their ſervices are performed with all that outward ſerioufneſs and ſolemnity, that uſually indicate the inward ſincerity of the heart.

Birds.—Ember geeſe are plenty here in winter, but, being birds of paſſage, they diſappear in ſpring, and do not return till the end of harveſt. How this bird hatches its young, remains a profound ſecret, both as to the manner and the place. That it ſhould be in either of the ways commonly ſuppoſed, under its wings, or in the ſands, are conjectures attended with many difficulties, that render both very improbable. But that they do not breed any where here-abouts is certain, as their eggs are never found here, nor their young, till fully grown.

This bird is alſo remarkable for its ſtrong ſtructure of body; for though conſiderably leſs in ſize than the common grey gooſe, it weighs a great deal more. They ſometimes weigh 18 pounds. It is never ſeen on the land; and though it has pretty large wings, it is never ſeen to fly. Every water fowl takes the aſſiſtance of its feet to raiſe itſelf out of the water, when it is going to fly; but the feet of this bird are ſo much in a right line with its body, that they can never be brought far enough forward to aſſiſt it in riſing out of the water. Nor does nature ſeem to have intended that it ever ſhould fly; for in whatever manner it is attacked, purſued, or ſuddenly ſurpriſed, it always has recourſe to diving for its ſafety. Being a bird of paſſage, it differs from all others, in preferring, on that occaſion, the medium of water to that of air; and as it makes its way, probably with equal ſpeed, by means of its wings, (for ſea fowls are frequently ſeen uſing their wings under water), ſo it accompliſhes it with equal certainty.

The

The lyar bird is not peculiar to this iſland, but abounds far more here than in other places of the country. The food of this bird is not known; only by its being web-footed, and ſeen always flying and hovering over the ſea, there can be no doubt but that, in ſome ſhape or other, it derives its ſubſiſtence from that element. The ſtomachs of the young ones do not ſerve to aſcertain their food; they contain nothing but a thin oily ſubſtance which flows readily by the bill, when they are hung by the feet.

This bird makes its neſt, by digging a hole horizontally in the looſe earth, found among the ſhelvings of high rocks. The holes are commonly of that width and depth, that a man's hand and arm can reach the birds, of which there is only one in each hole. One of them may weigh nearly a pound weight, and is ſo fat, that one half of it will run to an oil. Some reckon it the moſt delicious morſel in the world, and others the moſt deteſtable.

Whether the lyar, or lyar-catcher, be the greateſt curioſity, I ſhall leave the reader to judge. The former, as if inſtinctively warned of the adventurous boldneſs of the latter, chuſes a retreat for hatching its young, ſeemingly perfectly inacceſſible to every creature not furniſhed with wings. Rocks perpendicular, or ſometimes projecting far beyond their baſe, and in height from 1000 to 1300 feet, promiſe the deſired ſecurity;—but in vain. The lyar-catcher ſwings himſelf over by means of a rope, and lowers himſelf, or is lowered down by his aſſiſtants, who hold the rope, till he reaches his intended ſtation. He then crawls, and clings, and climbs, till he has taken every lyar in that quarter. In purſuit of the ſame game, he ſometimes, by a ſecond rope, makes a ſecond deſcent ſtill farther down the precipice. In this laſt ſtation, he may have 500 feet perpendicular rock over his head, and 700 or 800 feet below him, hanging over the

the ocean; yet ſuch is the love of fame, of ſome ſort or other, or ſuch the difference of human conſtitutions, that the adventurer repeats here his manoeuvres, with the greateſt ſeeming unconcern. And indeed his unconcern muſt be real; for if he ſhould once begin to ſhrink or ſhudder at his awful ſituation, he would ſoon tumble headlong to the bottom, an event that ſometimes, though but rarely, happens. Having collected his prey, he adjuſts it to his ſhoulders and back, taking care that it may not incommode him in climbing. He then returns, and climbing where he can, and aſſiſted by his rope where he cannot, he regains the ſummit, bringing with him the value of only a few ſhillings in his moſt ſucceſsful adventure.

Eminent Men.—The only perſon born in this pariſh, whoſe merits claim a place here, was Commodore James Moodie, of the family of Melſetter, who, when a boy, having run off from ſchool, entered himſelf on board a man of war, where his good conduct gradually advanced him to the rank of a commodore, in the ſervice of her Majeſty Queen Anne. How well his ſervices were received, and how much he was reſpected, may beſt appear from the following letter, written by Charles III. King of Spain, to her Majeſty Queen Anne.

Madame ma Soeur,

Le Capitaine James Moodie, qui commande le vaiſſeau Lancaſter, m'a rendu des ſervices ſi conſiderables, que je dois preſque uniquement reconnoitre de ſon zêle, la conſervation de ma ville de Denia, laquelle (depourvue de toutes ſortes d'amunitions), n'auroit gueres tenuo, contre un ſiege de cinque ſemaines, amoins que le dit Capitaine, n'en eut fourni quelque quantité ſur la requiſition que lui firent ceux, qui com-

commandoient de ma part. Je ne doute point que votre Majeſté voudra bien lui faire reſentir les effects de ſa genereuſe reconnoiſance, tant a l'egard de dîtes ſervices, que de ma preſſante interceſſion ; a laquelle je n' ajouterai que l'aſſurance du reſpect et attachment ſincere avec lequell, Je ſuis,

Madame ma ſoeur,

Barcelone, ce 12*mo. Nov.* Votre tres affectionè frere

de 1707. CHARLES.

The above tranſlated may run thus.

Madam my Siſter,

Captain James Moodie, who commands the veſſel Lancaſter, has rendered me ſervices ſo important, that I owe almoſt entirely to his zeal, the preſervation of my city of Denia, which, being deſtitute of all kinds of proviſion, could not have held out againſt a ſiege of five weeks, unleſs the ſaid Captain had furniſhed a ſupply, at the requeſt of thoſe who commanded on my part. I doubt not but your Majeſty will make him a handſome and generous return, both on account of the ſaid ſervices, and of this my preſſing interceſſion: To which I ſhall only add, the aſſurance of that reſpect and ſincere attachment with which I am,

Madam my Siſter,

Your very affectionate brother,

CHARLES.

With regret I add, that the above gentleman, at the advanced age of between 70 and 80 years, was baſely murdered in the ſtreets of Kirkwall, by the hand of a hired villain, and at the inſtigation of a rebel, Sir James Stewart.

NUM-

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF KILLEARNAN.

(PRESBYTERY OF CHANONRY.—SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ROSS).

By the Rev. Mr DAVID DUNOON, *Miniſter.*

Situation, Name, and Extent.

IT is bounded on the weſt by the pariſh of Urray; on the north by a range of common, dividing it from Ferrintoſh; on the eaſt by Kilmuir Weſter and Suddy; and on the ſouth by the Frith of Beauly, along which it is pleaſantly ſituated.

The origin of the name is uncertain. Tradition makes the burying ground, which gives it to the pariſh, to be that of *Irenan*, a Daniſh prince, who fell in battle on its confines, where *cairn* Irenan ſtill exiſts. The greateſt length, from north-weſt to ſouth-eaſt is about 5 miles, and the greateſt breadth about 2. It is wholly the property of two reſiding heritors, Mr Grant of Redcaſtle, and Mr M'Kenzie of Kilcoy.

Soil.—In this there is a conſiderable variety. Light loam, gravel, and deep blue clay, are to be found on the ſame farm. Some fields are covered with ſmall ſtones in remarkable abundance; 100 cart loads have been thrown off an acre, yet on the next plowing, a ſimilar ſource of *amuſement* has preſented itſelf to the farmer. A conſiderable track covers a

remarkably thick ſtratum of reddiſh free-ſtone, which extends almoſt due north to the Frith of Dingwall. It is eaſily hewn. and, when properly ſelected, very eligible for buildings of any deſcription.

Several ſmall veins of wilks, and other ſhells, are found. There is neither marle nor lime-ſtone; nor have the effects of either (with very immaterial exception) been hitherto tried on the ſoil. This will lead the reader to infer, that the ſtate of

Agricultural Improvement is backward in the extreme. Of this a juſt idea will be formed, when it is mentioned, that although about 2000 acres are in culture, there is not a two horſe plough in the pariſh, and very few, iron included, worth above ſix or ſeven ſhillings, thoſe of the proprietors excepted. The farms are almoſt entirely under a conſtant ſucceſſion of corn crops, barley and oats alternately, a very ſmall extent being altogether for peaſe, and an inconſiderable proportion, which exhauſts a large ſhare of the manure of the year, appropriated for potatoes. The farmers have no incloſures, and of courſe conſider the vicinity of any as an intolerable grievance, ſo that their fields from autumn, until the briar appears in April, are one undiſtinguiſhed common, through which horſes, oxen, and ſheep range promiſcuouſly.

To a perſon unacquainted with the circumſtances of the country, this ſtatement will appear unaccountable; he will look on the inhabitants as labouring under obſtinate prejudices, or ſtupidly incapable of learning the beneficial ſyſtems of others; but to neither of theſe cauſes is it to be attributed; *1ſt*, The proprietors do not appear to have looked on the introduction of the modern ſyſtem of farming, as an object adequate to (what they conceived) the unpleaſant neceſſity of granting long leaſes, to the tax on their properties of an increaſed

creaſed melioration, as well as the inducement which they would probably require to hold out to improving tenants in a diminution of the rent. No man of this deſcription can commence his operations on a proper ſcale, without a capital equal to at leaſt 5 years rent, for reaſons obvious to every perſon in any meaſure acquainted with huſbandry; and no man, who is in poſſeſſion of a capital to this extent, will be induced to take a farm, unleſs he can have the proſpect of a comfortable maintenance, and full melioration for his expenditure in building and improvements. The rent that can be afforded by ſuch a farmer muſt of courſe be proportionally low, as the ſum which he advances on entering, as the value of his ſtocking, (ſay the neceſſary horſes, farming utenſils, &c.), together with the probable requiſite expenditure, are high; becauſe he has to add the annual intereſt of theſe, being at leaſt 8 *per cent.* to his rent. It is therefore evident, that the difference betwixt the value of melioration, expenditure, and ſtocking, neceſſary for the preſent mode of conducting huſbandry, and the value of thoſe as requiſite for the effectual introduction of the more generally approved ſyſtem, muſt be altogether againſt the proprietors. This difference is very conſiderable.

Let us view both in a few particulars, as in their probable conſequences affecting the lands in this pariſh. Firſt, By the preſent ſyſtem of farming, it is believed that the full melioration does not exceed two-thirds of the rent, ſay, (for the ſake of even numbers) 1400l. the intereſt of which is an annual tax on the different properties of 70l. But by the modern ſyſtem, 3 years rent for melioration will be requiſite, ſay 6300l. raiſing the tax to 315l. *per annum.*

Farther, by the preſent ſyſtem, the different operations of huſbandry are principally carried on by oxen. Horſes are (I believe with very few exceptions) uſed for conducting the

modern

modern ſyſtem. Suppoſe that 200 horſes may be able to labour what is now done by 600 oxen. Suppoſe the value of the neceſſary ſtocking to be thus much the ſame, calculating each pair of horſes as equal in value to 6 oxen, ſay 24 l. which, for the above number, ſuppoſed neceſſary for the purpoſe of huſbandry in this pariſh, is 2400 l. *

The intereſt of this ſum, ſunk in a ſtocking of oxen, may be *6 per cent.* being, *per annum* -	L.	140	0 0
The intereſt of the ſame ſum, ſunk in a ſtocking of horſes, is at leaſt 10 *per cent.* being, *per annum* - -	L.	240	0 0
The ſmith and ferrier's charge cannot be under 10 s. for each horſe *per annum* -		100	0 0
Suppoſe the conſumpt of oats to be a peck per week for each horſe at an average, *i. e.* 3 bolls 1 firlot *per annum*, or 650 bolls for the above number, valued at 12 s. per boll		390	0 0
In all	L.	730	0 0
From this take as above		140	0 0
The ſuppoſed difference betwixt the expence of labouring with horſes, and that of labouring with oxen, is - -		590	0 0
Ditto betwixt that of melioration, as above ſtated, is - - - -		245	0 0
So that theſe two articles, which are moderately rated, make a clear annual balance againſt the proprietors, of - -	L.	835	0 6

which

* We have a number of ſmall horſes, even by the preſent ſyſtem of farming; but theſe are maintained at a conſiderable expence; and it is preſumeable, that any loſſes to which they ſubject the farmer, is more than compenſated, in general, by the number of ſupernumerary cattle which he is able to rear.

which in this pariſh would be near 40 *per cent.* of the rent.

Add to theſe, the very material difference in the expenditure for farming utenſils, manures, and improvements, the material deficiency in the article of manure, together with the *prodigious public loſs* *, which would reſult from the univerſal adoption of the modern plan of uſing horſes inſtead of oxen.

Theſe circumſtances ſhew, that the introduction of the more approved plans of huſbandry would not, in a pecuniary view, be ſo advantageous to the proprietors as might at firſt be imagined. And indeed it is a well known fact, that very diſtant as farms in this part of the country moſt unqueſtionably are from improvement, yet that from the inconſiderable neceſſary expence of an intrant tenant, the average rent of ſome of them equals that of ſome in the county of Eſſex.

But other circumſtances have contributed to that backwardneſs in agricultural improvement, too evident in this and the neighbouring pariſhes.

Before any perſons can be induced to deviate from eſtabliſhed practice, they muſt have acceſs to obſerve the ſuperior advantages of a new ſyſtem; they muſt have the proſpect of reaping the fruits of that ſyſtem by long leaſes; and alſo (as already obſerved) a ſufficient ſtock to enable them to perſevere until their farms are brought to proper heart.

The farmers of this pariſh have never had the advantage of the firſt of theſe. It is true, the proprietors have occaſionally introduced the improvements of modern huſbandry, but from the efforts of proprietors as examples, the peaſantry never will act. Theſe generally improve more for pleaſure than

* An 100 oxen muſt, one year with another, be ſold and ſlaughtered out of 600. To this quantity of beef add the above 650 bolls of oats ſaved—*Quaeritur* To how many people will theſe afford annual maintenance. Our oxen weigh about 350 or 400 lib.

than profit. If fond of a country life, their expenditure in hedging, incloſing, trenching, with a thouſand *et ceteras*, is endleſs. I have known the firſt crop, of little more than half an acre, coſt the improving proprietor above 20l. How can a poor tenant imitate this? He will laugh at what he conſiders the enthuſiaſm that leads to it, and it will rivet his prejudices againſt improvement.

An intelligent *actual farmer*, whoſe bread depends upon his induſtry, and who is little removed from their own ſphere in life, (the Hugh Reoch, mentioned in the very ingenious ſtatiſtical account of Alloa), is the man who will moſt eſſentially contribute to introduce an alteration of ſyſtem, and a ſpirit of improvement into any diſtrict. His neighbours will obſerve, and are, in very few inſtances, ſo blind to their intereſt, as if able, not to imitate his exertions.

But the agricultural ſtate of this pariſh will farther be accounted for, when it is mentioned, that leaſes are, with very few exceptions, unknown. The farms on the moſt conſiderable property have for many years been held only from year to year. The longeſt leaſe recollected, with the exception of the life-rent of one ſmall farm, is 10 years, and very few have exceeded 5. What inducement does this preſent for improvement? How can that man embark in any plan for ameliorating his farm, who knows that he only hangs out a bait for the graſp of avarice, and that ingenuity and induſtry tend only to ruin him? It is to be hoped that the more enlightened policy of the ſouthern counties will ſoon be more generally adopted in ours, and that the proprietors will delight in receiving "the *bleſſing* of them that are ready "to periſh;" the juſt recompence gratefully paid to the lord of their manor, by induſtrious, flouriſhing, uſeful members of ſociety, and accompanied, let it not be thought of little value, by their prayer for his enjoying the bleſſing of the Lord

Lord of lords. From the above ſtatement it will be inferred, and with juſtice, that the farmers in this pariſh, and indeed throughout this country, are, in general, *poor;* ſo much ſo, that although leaſes ſhould be granted, it would take ſome conſiderable time before they poſſibly could adopt an improved ſyſtem of huſbandry. What! will a mere theoriſt in farming exclaim, Is not one ſyſtem of huſbandry as eaſily followed as another? Does not the modern ſyſtem require fewer ſervants, and leſs ſeed; and does it not yield more luxuriant crops? Let all theſe be granted; but what this reaſoning is to a *poor* tenant, the following facts will tend to illuſtrate. By the preſent ſyſtem, it requires the utmoſt exertion of his induſtry, and an almoſt uninterrupted ſucceſſion of crops, to pay his rent and ſervants, and afford a maintenance, *very ſober indeed*, to his family. It may be affirmed, that on a farm of 30 acres, 2 l. *per annum* has not been cleared, at an average, by any one farmer, for 20 years, by farming alone. Let us ſuppoſe a man in this predicament, from obſerving the ſucceſs of others, anxious to lay a fifth part under graſs, ſay 6 acres; before he can poſſibly do this an incloſure is neceſſary, which, if built by the proprietor, exhauſts, by the payment of $7\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* intereſt, the ſuppoſed, or rather real average, profit. Let him, however, perſevere to manure this properly, he ſtarves the reſt of his farm.

The graſs is notwithſtanding ſown at an extra expence of 20 s. per acre, and cut the ſecond year; but when he calculates profit and loſs, he finds a deficiency of 24 bolls, the uſual average produce of 6 acres; the ſame the ſecond year of the *improving aera*, 48 bolls and 6 l.; ſo that before he can experience the benefit of a graſs crop, his corn yard may be probably ſold to the higheſt bidder. It will be aſked, Why not ſell the graſs at 6 d. per ſtone? for the beſt

of

of all reasons, because he has no market. This is not mere theory, it is founded on fact; and the circumstances are mentioned merely for the purpose of pointing out to speculatists in farming the almost insurmountable difficulties which must be encountered by poor men, whose backwardness in ameliorating their farms, they are too often disposed to ascribe to ignorance, indolence, and obstinacy.

Let not the generous heart, therefore, load them with invective, or treat them with severity, for thinking once and again before they enter on measures which, however sensible they may be of their good effects when persevered in, may eventually prove their ruin. To the benevolent mind, on the contrary, it will afford pleasure gradually to lay open to their view what may be most conducive to their benefit, to stimulate their exertion by suitable encouragement, and to see them contented and happy in the possession of those comforts which are suited to their sphere in life. To this mode of conduct, it is to be hoped, that the farmers in this parish may have the comfort of looking forward. It is with much pleasure mentioned, that the present proprietors offer premiums to encourage the industrious; pay the expence of small temporary inclosures, to enable them to experience the utility of sown grasses; and allow melioration for comfortable houses. A number of farms have undergone judicious divisions of from 20 to 60 acres each. Customs and carriages have been converted; run ridges have been abolished; and, it is not doubted, that proper leases will be given to those who discover a wish to improve. Nor will they experience that this treatment of their inferiors will run in opposition to their interest. The above mentioned division of the farms they will find particularly beneficial. From the too prevalent practice of uniting small farms, it is confessed that a proprietor may have his rents collected with somewhat less

trouble,

trouble, and his property may be brought with more rapidity to its utmoſt value; but this plan is certainly objectionable, for two reaſons of indiſputable importance. 1*ſt*, Suppoſe the mode of farming the ſame, it is clear that the occupier of 30 acres, being the *actual labourer*, is able to pay a higher rent than can be afforded by thoſe who employ ſervants at extravagant wages, and are often, through their negligence or villainy, expoſed to impoſition and conſiderable loſſes. The different operations of huſbandry are performed on farms of this extent, not by the careleſs menial, but by the united exertions of a family, happy in themſelves, and each feeling an intereſt in acting his part. But, 2*dly*, In a national view, the conſolidation of farms is ſtill more ſeriouſly objectionable. Its effect is immediate depopulation. It compels the poor *aborigines*, "*Patriae fines et dulcia linquere* "*arva*," to emigrate, friendleſs and unprotected, to other countries; or to crowd into towns, with the view of graſping at the caſual ſources of earning their pittance, which may occur.

"Ill fares the land, to haſt'ning ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay:
Princes and lords may flouriſh or may fade,
A breath can make them as a breath has made;
But a bold peaſantry, their country's pride,
When once deſtroy'd, can never be ſupply'd.
Their beſt companions, innocence and health,
And their beſt riches, ignorance of wealth *."

Were it poſſible to introduce the improvements of modern huſbandry on farms of the above extent, juſt ſufficient to occupy the attention, and incourage the exertions of the actual

* Goldſmith's Deſerted Village.

labourer, aided by his family, (and possible it surely is by degrees) that point, it is conceived, would be attained, which would happily combine humanity with public utility, and the real interest of the proprietors with the happiness of thousands of their fellow creatures.

Rent.—The valued rent of this parish, including that of Wester Kessock, annexed, *quoad sacra*, to Kilmuir Wester, is 1873 l. 12 s. 7 d. Scots. The real gross rent exceeds 2000 l. Sterling.

Population.—In order to ascertain the comparative population betwixt the years 1755, (when the return was made to Dr Webster), and 1795, it is necessary to observe, that its boundaries have undergone considerable alterations, in consequence of a decreet of the Court of Teinds, passed in the 1756, annexing the neighbouring parish of Suddy to those of Killearnan and Kilmuir Wester. The most accurate method will therefore be, to compare the returns of the three parishes of Killearnan, Suddy, and Kilmuir Wester, as stated in the 1755, with those of Killearnan and the united parishes of Kilmuir and Suddy.

The exact population of this parish was, in February 1794,

Males, above 7 years of age — —	505
Females above 7 years — —	517
Males below 7 years — — —	68
Females below 7 years —	57
The number of souls was, on the above date	1147

As there are many of the inhabitants of this parish of the Episcopal (formerly the Nonjuring) persuasion *, by whom it

* Above 300.

it is believed no regiſter is kept; and as a conſiderable number from other pariſhes are interred in the burying ground of this one, and *vice verſa*, it is impoſſible to ſtate with preciſion the number of births, marriages, or burials. It may, however, be remarked, that from 1ſt February 1794, to 1ſt February 1795, there is an increaſe in that of each beyond any thing recollected. As far as the ſeſſion regiſter goes *, the births have been,

Anno.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
1764	14	12	26
1765	21	8	29
1771	12	14	26
1775	11	12	23
1780	10	10	20
1785	8	6	14
1790	13	12	25
1794	21	20	41

But through the prevalence of a putrid fever, the burials for the year 1794 have borne a ſtriking proportion.

There are in the pariſh, paying from 6l. to 60l. rent,

Farmers — — —	61
Shoemakers — — —	14
Weavers and apprentices — —	21
Taylors and ditto — —	14
Smiths and ditto — —	7
Houſe-carpenters, cart and wheel wrights	9
Millers and ſervants — —	5
Maſons — — —	8

Antiquities.—Under this head, there are few particulars worthy of notice. There are two conſiderable antient ſtructures,

* It includes only thoſe who were baptized by the eſtabliſhed miniſter.

tures, Kilcoy and Redcaſtle, the manor places of the heritors, which have evidently been built more for defence than for elegance, or comfortable accommodation. The latter (probably thus denominated from the colour of the ſtones of which it is built) was annexed to the Crown, with the lordſhip of Roſs, *anno* 1455, has the rights of a burgh of barony, with thoſe of a free port, holding weekly markets, levying tolls and anchorage dues, together with all other baronial privileges, not expreſsly abrogated by the juriſdiction act, 1748. At the beginning of laſt century, Redcaſtle was a place of conſiderable ſtrength. In the 1646, ſoon after Montroſe was forced, or rather permitted, by Middleton, to raiſe the ſiege of Inverneſs, Rory M'Kenzie of Redcaſtle joined him, together with his chieftain and clan, in that remonſtrance againſt the procedure of the Covenanters, for which Seaforth was ſoon thereafter excommunicated.

In the 1649, the M'Kenzies, exaſperated at the King's death *, and vowing revenge, projected an expedition to the ſouth. Joining a party of Sutherlands, they, in number about 1500, croſſed Keſſock and Beauley on Sunday the 3d May: Coming to Inverneſs in time of divine ſervice, the ringing of bells was ſoon ſucceeded by the noiſe of drums and bagpipes. The alarmed inhabitants, haſtily ſummoned from

* The writer finds the following lines in an old manuſcript, ſaid to have been written by Montroſe on the ſea beach, with the point of his ſword, on receipt of the intelligence of Charles's fate.

Great, good, and juſt, could I but rate,
My griefs, and thy ſo rigid fate,
I'd weep the world to ſuch a ſtrain
As ſhould it deluge o'er again.
But ſince thy loud tongu'd blood demands ſupplies
More from Briarius's hands than Argus's eyes,
I'll ſing thy obſequies with trumpet ſounds,
And write thy epitaph with blood and wounds.

from church, were obliged to provide the beſt intertainment. Their gueſts, however, were ſo delicately nice, that it was found neceſſary to bribe their teeth into exerciſe, by laying on every man's cover what they called *argiod cagnidh*, chewing money.

From Inverneſs they marched through Murray, and, croſſing the Spey, encamped near Balvany Caſtle, the property of the Marquis of Huntley. But amidſt the revelry which reſulted from conſiderable plunder, and unſuſpecting ſecurity, they were ſuddenly attacked by Colonels Strachan and Kerr, defeated, and almoſt all made priſoners. Strachan, improving his victory, ſent a party to beſiege Redcaſtle, which was garriſoned, in the proprietor's abſence, by his ſons and dependants. A Lieut. M'Bean was ſent to ſummon it to ſurrender; but he was fired at from the walls, and killed. This ſo enraged the aſſailants, that they ſtormed, took, and burnt it to the ground. M'Bean's covenanting friends looking on the M'Kenzie territory as unhallowed, conveyed his remains to have the privilege of Chriſtian interment among the Fraſer's at Kirkhill; where a flag ſtill covers his grave, bearing this inſcription, Here layes one of David's Worthies *.

Cairns.—There are on the confines of this pariſh aſtoniſhing numbers of theſe, ſome of them of uncommon magnitude.

The ſervants of a neighbouring proprietor, when lately taking away the ſtones of one for an incloſure, found a ſtone coffin in the centre. This, with ſeveral other circumſtances, evidently mark them as indexes of the ferocious ſpirit of antient times. The moſt conſiderable were probably gathered in memory of the chieftains, or thoſe who had been moſt illuſtrious for deeds of valour.—*Curidh mi ęlach ar do chaarn*

—I

* David Leſlie.

—I ſhall add a ſtone to your cairn, was, among the Highlanders, the valedictory expreſſion of gratitude or eſteem.

There is one Druidical temple, Cairn Irenan, formerly mentioned, probably the moſt complete in this country.

To the ſouth-eaſt of Redcaſtle, about 400 yards within flood-mark, there is a cairn of conſiderable dimenſions. Many of the ſtones, notwithſtanding their colliſion through the violence of the tide, ſtill bear the marks of art, and indicate the exiſtence of a conſiderable building at ſome very remote period. There are ſeveral cairns of this deſcription in the Frith, about the origin of which even tradition is ſilent. Were there any veſtiges of tumuli on which they could have been built, or any other circumſtances which ſhould indicate the eligibility of the ſcites on which they are placed, we might be induced to look on them as temporary aſylums from the predatory incurſions of rude and barbarous tribes; but none ſuch exiſt. Urns have been found in one of them, which, with other circumſtances, induced Dr Campbell * to be of opinion, that the Romans muſt have been thus far north. The cairns he ſuppoſes of Daniſh origin. An ingenious countryman † has gone farther, and ſuppoſes that a conſiderable part of the area which is dry at ebb tide, but covered with from 2 to 16 feet water when it flows, being at leaſt 10 ſquare miles, muſt have been inhabited.

Whatever may have been in this, the proximity of this arm of the ſea is of very conſiderable utility to this and the neighbouring pariſhes, as, excluſive of the facility with which coals, lime, wood, and other neceſſaries are conveyed, it furniſhes a variety of fiſh, and particularly herrings, in their ſeaſon, which have been ſometimes ſold 100 for 1 d. Sprats, ſandals,

* Polit. Survey, vol. I. p. 217.

† Mr Fraſer, miniſter of Kirkhill, No. 2. Philoſoph. Tranſ. I cannot recollect the preciſe number, it may be about the 250.

ſandals, ſhrimps, flounders, and other ſmall fiſhes, are taken during ſummer and harveſt in what we call yares, a contrivance ſo common as not to require deſcription.

Diſtilleries.—There are 7 licenſed ſtills, of 30 gallons each, in this pariſh, yielding an annual revenue of 315 l.; but conſuming a very conſiderable proportion of the produce. It is much to be regretted that the price of ardent ſpirits has not riſen in this part of the country, in proportion to the advance of tax. The diſtillers having in general no capital, are frequently under a neceſſity of ſelling their whiſky at a conſiderable diſadvantage; and the number who are thus ſituated, ſupply our confined market ſo abundantly, that thoſe who are poſſeſſed of capitals cannot avail themſelves of them by a retention of the commodity, until the advance in price ſhould yield a reaſonable profit. Of conſequence, while barley ſells, as it now does, at a guinea per boll, the price of the gallon is only 3 s. and it is actually retailed in our dram houſes at 3 s. 8 d. which is no more than it ſold for before the laſt additional 50 per cent. was levied on each ſtill. Hence it is evident, that that tax has no effect in rendering ſpirits more inacceſſible to the lower ranks, and that it is principally, if not altogether, paid by the diſtiller out of his profits, not by the conſumer; how far he is able to afford this will be ſeen thus: The quantity of barley allowed to be diſtilled by each poſſeſſor of a 30 gallon ſtill, is 188½, ſo that 4 bolls, the quantity uſually diſtilled at a time, pay about - - - - L. 0 19 0

The price of barley may be averaged at 19 s. being for this quantity - - - 3 16 0

Fire, without including carriage for 3 or more miles - - - - - 0 10 0

Carried forward L. 5 5 0

Brought over	L. 5	5	0
Candles, bandages, tear and wear of distilling utensils - - - - - -	0	5	0
Attendance for 8 days and 8 *nights*, carriages to and from mills, expence of malting, the kiln-drying, &c. &c. valued at - -	0	10	0
Total expence - -	L. 6	0	0

The average produce of each 4 bolls is highly rated at 9 Scotch, or 36 English gallons, and the average price equally so at 13 s. 4 d. per Scotch, or 3 s. 4 d. per English, say 6 l. The refuse for cattle may be worth 5 s. which is in fact the only profit to be derived from distilling in this country.

It will be asked, Why then so many distilleries? For these reasons: Distilling is almost the only method of converting our victual into cash for the payment of rent and servants; and whisky may, in fact, be called our staple commodity. The distillers do not lay the proper value on their time and trouble, and of course look on all, but the price of the barley and fire added to the tax, as clear profit; add to these the luxury of tasting the quality of the manufacture during the process.

A very beneficial alteration in the distillery law, would be a more frequent renewal of licences; suppose 6 months instead of 12. As it now exists, the distiller becomes bound for 45 l. for a 30 gallon still, from the 1st December to the 1st December, let the prices of barley and spirits be what they may; of course, he is under the necessity of continuing to distil, however exorbitant the first, or cheap the last. This has two bad consequences, when a crop is unproductive, it raises the price of meal on the one hand, and renders spirits a dangerous drug on the other. The above alteration, without

without injuring the revenue *, would, in a great meaſure, prevent both. The price of ſpirits would find its level in proportion to that of grain, and the mean of intoxication would not offer itſelf to the lower ranks, with ſuch pernicious facility as it now does in conſequence of a glutted market.

Fuel.—The only firing in this pariſh is a yellow ſpongy moſs, now almoſt entirely exhauſted, and the wretched turf pared off the common. Newcaſtle coals are uſed by thoſe who can afford the outlay of caſh, together with burn wood and peats, ſubjecting ſuch a family as the incumbent's, for a fire in a room and a kitchen, and occaſionally in bed rooms, to an annual heavy expence of from 10 to 14 l. †.

Several circumſtances indicating the exiſtence of coals have occurred in different parts of this country; but a peculiar diſadvantage which prevents diſcoveries of this kind is, that the perſons who are beſt qualified to make them, and who are of courſe employed, are, in general, notoriouſly intereſted in cruſhing the attempt. Until ſome man of ſkill and ſpirit ſhall be induced, by a participation of the profits, or otherwiſe, to make proper experiments, we ſhall probably remain as we are, in the want of this very eſſential comfort of life.

Improvements.—Under this head, it is pleaſing to remark, that the progreſs, in ſome particulars, has of late been rapid.

* Any poſſible injury to the revenue could ariſe only from the diminution of the quantity, and of courſe of the conſumpt of ardent ſpirits. By the law, exportation is not permitted; and conſequently, however much the market may be overſtocked, the inhabitants of this diſtrict of country are literally *compelled* to drink the ſuperabundance.

† We have hitherto, from the advance in freight, ſeamen's wages, &c. experienced very little benefit from the ſuppreſſion of the partial Red-head tax.

To Mr Grant of Redcaſtle the ſucceeding generation will be much indebted for his extenſive plantations of oak, larch, planetree, aſh, elm, and Scotch fir, fenced by at leaſt 20,000 yards of an incloſure; but, however great the exertions of individuals may be, a bar has hitherto preſented itſelf to the general improvement of the country, in an extent of unappropriated *muir*, perhaps the moſt conſiderable in Great Britain. It is lamentable to obſerve, that the peninſula formed by the Friths of Beauly and Dingwall, (commonly deſigned the Black Iſle) contains, it is believed, from 30 to 40 ſquare miles, abundantly capable of improvement by agriculture or planting, which ſtill continued in their natural ſtate, not worth one penny per acre, yet a continual ſource of jealouſy betwixt the conterminous proprietors. It is the more ſo, as the propriety of a diviſion is admitted on all hands as the power of the Court of Seſſion, under the act 1695, to carry it into effect is undoubted, and as nothing is wanting but cooperation.

Some of the proprietors are now induced to look to the well known philanthrophy of the *Agricultural Board*, for that effectual interference for carrying this very deſirable object into effect, which might prove tedious, vexatious, and irkſome, to any private individual. It would be an object highly deſerving of their attention, which, without ſubjecting them to a ſhilling of expence, would moſt materially contribute to the good of their country.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The preſent incumbent was admitted aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor to his father on the 3d March 1790, in conſequence of a ſign manual from the Crown, and a preſentation from Kenneth M'Kenzie, Eſq; the repreſentative of the family of Cromarty.

He inclines to believe that the right of patronage belongs to the latter.

The

The ſtipend of Kilmuir Weſter, and Suddy, and that of this pariſh, are preciſely the ſame, being nine chalders and one boll of bear, three chalders and three bolls oat meal, and ninety eight pounds nine ſhillings and eight pennies Scotch money. It is, however, marked by theſe peculiar circumſtances, that the lands of one heritor do not pay a boll more than they did anno 1695, nor thoſe of the other proprietor more than in the year 1721; and, however paradoxical it may appear, the laſt is in fact conſiderably the gainer by the *quantum* of ſtipend payable by his property. It was purchaſed at a judicial ſale—a full fifth of the property, or what is the ſame thing, of the rent, was previouſly ſtruck off by the Court of Seſſion as teind. While the purchaſer was under the neceſſity of taking a tack of the free teind, he was of courſe not a ſhilling in advance for the exhauſted part, (*i. e.*) for the lands paying ſtipend.

But while the living remains, in *ſtatu quo*, the miniſter's portion of the property, (may not this name be given it on paper)? bears its proportion of a conſiderable augmentation of rent, ſuppoſe 20 per cent.

The glebe may be about 6 acres arable and paſture. The *names* of two villages in the pariſh, *Chappletown* and *Spittal* *, corroborating ſome confuſed traditions, indicate the exiſtence of two religious houſes at ſome remote period, one dedicated to a Popiſh Saint, the other belonging to the Knights of Malta. There are at preſent none of the Roman Catholic perſuaſion, nor any who profeſs to differ from the eſtabliſhed church, the Scotch Epiſcopals (who are rather more than a fourth part of the number of inhabitants), excepted.

Poor.—We have no parochial aſſeſſment for their ſupport. There are, at an average, 35 on the roll, who, for ſeveral years,

* Hoſpital.

years, have only had the ſcanty weekly collections diſtributed among them, ſeldom amounting to above 5 l. when ſeſſion clerks and officers dues are deducted, 150 l. belonging to the poor of this pariſh were given to the late proprietor of Redcaſtle on perſonal ſecurity; his property was ſequeſtrated, and judicially ſold, anno 1789; and while theſe creditors who had heritable bonds were all paid, principal and intereſt, and ſuch as accepted of them, liquidated penalties, the widow and orphan have not, for many years, received a penny of either, and are now involved in a proceſs of ranking, of which the termination and reſult are yet uncertain.

The poor of the two neighbouring pariſhes are in the ſame predicament, which is mentioned as a caveat againſt overſtrained delicacy in the requiſition of proper ſecurity, by all who are intruſted with the management of public funds; and particularly by thoſe who act for the indigent and the deſtitute.

The number of itinerant poor has undergone a very pleaſing decreaſe of late, by the introduction of a branch of the Inverneſs hemp manufactory.

An agent diſtributes hemp to be ſpun for ſail-cloth, and pack-ſheeting, furniſhing an eaſy employment even to the aged and infirm, by which they can earn from 2½ d. to 6 d. per day. What renders this of peculiar utility to them is, that as they are not reſtricted in time, it does not prevent their attention to other neceſſary buſineſs; they can occupy, in ſpinning, thoſe hours which would otherwiſe paſs in idleneſs; and a ſtimulus to exertion is found in immediate payment on performing their engagements with fidelity.

Manners of the People.—Theſe have, during the currency of the laſt 40 years, undergone a very pleaſing alteration. The generality of the inhabitants were then ignorant in the extreme, and much diſaffected towards our civil and eccleſiaſtical

tical eſtabliſhments. As a ſtriking inſtance of this the following circumſtance is mentioned: The late incumbent was ſettled miniſter of this pariſh in May 1758; he, 8 months thereafter, publicly intimated, after ſermon, his intention of catechiſing the inhabitants of a particular diſtrict on the following Tueſday; but, on going to the houſe which he had fixed on as the place of meeting, not above three miles from the church, he found a convention of only a few old women. Having never before ſeen their miniſter they appeared much agitated, telling him, however, that he might have ſaved himſelf the trouble of coming to their town as they had no whiſky. They retired, one by one, and alarmed the neighbourhood, by ſaying, that a ſtrange Exciſeman had juſt come to ſuch a houſe. Since that period the change is ſtriking; the aſſiduity of the miniſter, in the diſcharge of his parochial duties, was attended with much ſucceſs; his exertions were, as he has often gratefully acknowledged, powerfully aided by the introduction of a * ſchool, (ſupported by the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge), at which from 60 to 90 children have been taught gratis. The houſe of God is now attended with regularity and devotion; they have learned, not indeed the chearleſs refinements of modern Philoſophy, but in the peruſal of the goſpel of peace, to find a healing balm to ſooth and to comfort them under the preſſure of all the calamities of life.

May they increaſe in thoſe virtues which are pure, peaceable, gentle, of good report, and eaſy to be intreated!

* The very inadequate ſalary payable to the parochial ſchoolmaſter is much againſt the pariſh; it is only 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. The office of ſchoolmaſter has been vacant ſince Martinmas, becauſe no qualified perſon can be got to accept of it. What a pity is it that the pecuniary reward of a deſcription of men, among the moſt uſeful in ſociety, ſhould exceed only, in a mere trifle, the wages of a common *hireling*.

NUM-

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF BOHARM.

(COUNTIES OF BANFF AND MORAY.—PRESBYTERY OF ABERLOUR.—SYNOD OF MORAY.)

By the Rev. Mr FRANCIS LESLIE, *Miniſter.*

Geography and Natural Hiſtory.

THE ancient name is *Bocharin;* in the original ſignifying the bow about the cairn, or rocky hill, from its ſurrounding nearly three parts of the bottom of the mountain of Beneageen. The length, between the pariſh of Mortlich, at the weſt, and the pariſh of Bellie, at the eaſt, is from 7 to 9 Engliſh miles; the breadth, from the pariſh of Botriphnie, at the ſouth, to the higheſt cultivated land on the mountain, northward, is from 2 to 3 Engliſh miles; but the figure of the pariſh is ſo irregular, that theſe meaſures are to be regarded as the mean, rather than as the particular length and breadth.

The general appearance of the country may be conceived as an extenſive valley from eaſt to weſt, having all the arable land hanging on the declivities of both ſides, there being little or no plain on the banks of the brooks, which, riſing in the hills, bend their courſes to either hand; to Fiddich, on the weſt; and, by the eaſt, turning by the north-weſt to Spey. From this general deſcription, Airndilly, the ſeat of David M'Dowall Grant, Eſq; falls to be excepted, being delightfully

lightfully ſituated on a riſing ground, above a pretty extenſive plain, half encircled by the Spey, in the ſouth-weſtern end of the pariſh, near to which, a little farther down the river, lie the haughs of Kailymore, a part of the ſame eſtate, ſignifying the *great wood*; which epithet, in ſome degree, it ſtill comparatively merits. The ſoil here is ſandy, warm, and fertile; but, in general, over the reſt of the pariſh, it is a ſtiff, rich, deep clay, generally on a bed of lime-ſtone, and very retentive of water, with which it is too frequently ſupplied, the ſummit of the mountain attracting or intercepting the clouds borne along from the ocean by the north and north-weſterly winds, on which account the harveſts are rather late; and, though the air be moiſt, yet there is no diſtemper generally prevalent. The people are vigorous and healthy; and ſeverals attain to the longeſt term of human life, there being at preſent ſeveral men, each 80, and one woman accounted 100 years of age.

The water of Fiddich, turned almoſt at right angles, from an eaſtern to a northern courſe, along the weſt end of the pariſh, ſteals in to the river Spey, which is only navigable for floating timber down from Strath Spey, part of which is manufactured into plank, deal, ſpar, and ſcantling, by two ſaw-mills at the Boat of Brigg. It is hardly neceſſary to notice here the excellent ſalmon caught in the Spey, as the public are already ſufficiently appriſed of this particular.

The charter of Moray has preſerved the memorial of the bridge over Spey at this place. Part of the foundation of the ſouthern pier ſtill remains. It has been ſuppoſed the bridge was of timber. Here alſo ſtood *the Chapel of St Nicholas*—"*Ad receptionem Pauperum tranſeuntium.*" Both the bridge and hoſpital were extant in the year 1232; but few particulars of their hiſtory or deſtruction remain.

It

It may be mentioned, that it is ſuppoſed practicable to build a ſtone-bridge here for about the ſum of 3000 l. Sterling, which, beſides certain conveniencies peculiar to this ſituation, would comprehend alſo all the requiſite accommodation to the public; for, if the high-way were continued from where it joins the road between Keith and Fochabers, at the ſouth end of the laſt of theſe villages, in the ſhorteſt courſe, to the Boat of Brigg, the diſtance from Cullen to Elgin would not be increaſed above 5 Engliſh miles on the whole, on a road as firm, and leſs expoſed to depth of ſnow, than the preſent high-way from Fochabers to Elgin.

Population.—The ancient ſtate of the population of the pariſh cannot now be aſcertained, farther than that it does not appear that the number of farm-houſes, or the extent of arable land, has been any way materially altered from what they were in times very remote.

Of late years, the population has been rather on the decreaſe, owing to ſeveral ſmaller farms, on which from 2 to 6 families reſided, being reduced into a ſingle farm, and occupied by a ſingle family.

At preſent, the number of perſons amounts to 1294, of whom 588 are males, and 706 females.

They all reſide in the country, and follow the occupation of huſbandry, with the exception of the few craftſmen who are requiſite for that object, and for the more immediate accommodation of the people. There are none who have left the pariſh for want of employment; yet a few go ſouthward in ſummer, on account of the higher wages given in that part of the kingdom.

There has never been any accurate regiſter kept of baptiſms, marriages, or burials. Theſe particulars, therefore, cannot with any ſatisfactory preciſion be aſcertained.

Productions

Productions of the Pariſh.—Oats, barley, and peaſe, are the kinds of corn principally raiſed. There are fields of ſown graſs, bearing, however, little proportion to the natural lie graſs and common paſturage. Of the corn, there may be about two third parts in oats, the remaining third in barley and peaſe, in which part the potatoe and flax may be alſo included.

The oats and peaſe are ſown from the beginning of March, as the ſeaſon allows, to near the middle of May; and the barley ſeed-time is generally completed before the 1ſt of June. The harveſt begins from about the middle of Auguſt to the middle of September. In ſome years, of late, it has not begun before the firſt week of October. Its concluſion, of courſe, muſt be at different times; and it has been, of late, accounted early, if completed by the end of November.

On the eſtate of Airndilly, if the different banks and clumps be regarded as a whole, there is a conſiderable extent of natural wood, in which wild cherries, plumbs, and geens, are interſperſed. On this eſtate there are alſo extenſive plantations of fir and pine, and other foreſt trees; and ſimilar plantations have alſo riſen up on the eſtate of Auchluncart, and on the lands in this pariſh appertaining to the Earl of Findlater, and which are not deſtitute of natural wood.

The black cattle among the country tenants, though not of great bone, are accounted handſome, and of a fine figure. The ordinary price of a yoke of oxen may be from 8 l. to 15 l. Sterling; and ſome have been ſold at a higher rate. A milk cow may ſell from 3 l. or 4 l. to 6 l. Sterling; and a ſcore of wedders, with the fleece, from 6 l. to 9 l. Sterling.

Miſcellaneous.—It muſt be accounted a diſadvantage to the greater part of the pariſh, that it is ſo much expoſed to rain

in the end of ſummer, and during the autumn; and, from the coldneſs of the ſoil, the ſnow lies long in the ſpring, ſo that the ſeaſons are later; much of the corn not fully ripened; much loſt; and much vexatious trouble in harveſt, evils to which the oppoſite ſide of the Spey are comparatively not expoſed; while, on the other hand, the near and more eaſy acceſs to the cattle fairs during the ſummer, the abundance of natural paſture and lime-ſtone, are advantages which the neighbourhood on the north ſide of that river do not ſo amply poſſeſs.

The pariſh is at preſent poſſeſſed by 4 heritors. David M'Dowall Grant, Eſq; has the lands of Airndilly, Papeen, Newtown, Gallval, and Auchmadies. The Earl of Findlater holds the barony of Mulben, the lands of Cairnty and Muldeiry. Andrew Stewart, Eſq; writer to the ſignet, has the barony of Auchluncart. Archibald Duff of Drummuir, Eſq; has the farm of Knocan. The valued rent of the pariſh is 2840 l. Scotch. The real rent of the whole has not been aſcertained.

The Scotch is the only language ſpoken in the pariſh; but, with a few exceptions, the names of the places belong to the Earſe tongue.

There are no funds for the ſupport of the poor, except two ſmall mortifications, amounting only to 8 l. 10 s. Sterl. together. The number of poor on the roll may amount to 17.

The ruin of the caſtle of Gallvall is the only remain of any thing that can be deemed antiquity in the pariſh. It was built fronting the eaſt, on the north ſide of the valley towards the weſtern end, where the declivity hath fallen more gently into an inclined plain, and ſhot a promontory into the deep defile, formed by the courſe of the ſtream of Aldermy; ſnugly ſheltered from the northern blaſt, with an enlivening

enlivening extent of arable field, riſing behind on either hand; a luxuriant landſcape, ſpread weſtward on the winding banks of the Fiddich, glittering through the meadows and woods, decorated by the ſteady battlements of the caſtles of Balvenie and Auchendown, each on its own green hill, and terminated by the ſummits of the blue mountains, ranged at a diſtance around, ſeeming to debar all irruption upon the ſequeſtered vales. It bore little reſemblance to the other caſtles of the feudal lords, whoſe towers, or ſquare or round, of various heights and form, projected for the protection of the intermediate walls. It appears to have been a ſimple ſtructure of an 119 by 24 feet within, divided by an internal wall, ſo as to form two halls on the ground floor, one 65, and the other 54 feet in length. The windows were only 20 inches wide, though the walls were 8 feet thick, built up in frames of timber, for keeping in the fluid mortar which was poured into the dry ſtone-wall, when raiſed to a certain height. The front and corners were neatly finiſhed with free-ſtone from the quarries of Duffus, at the diſtance of 20 miles, on the other ſide of Spey, the neareſt where ſuch ſtone could have been procured. The front and gables are now entirely broken down; but, within theſe 50 years, they ſtood to the height of ſeveral ſtories. About that period, ſeveral ſilver ſpoons were found among the rubbiſh, having the handle round, and hollow like a pipe; and the concave part, or ſhell, perfectly circular.

This bulky fabric, which on the eaſtern front had lower external accommodations, in the year 1200 was denominated Caſtellum de Bucharin. It then belonged to the Freſkyns of Duffus, by whom it was no doubt built. By aſſuming the title *De Moravia*, from their connection with that country, they became the author of that ſirname. They were once poſſeſſed of many a fair domain in the north, namely, Duffus, Duldavie,

Duldavie, Dalvey, Inverallen, and Kirkdales, in Moray; Airndilly, Aikenwall, Boharm, Botriphnie, then Botruthin, Kinermonie, then Cere Kainermonth, in Banff ſhire; and in Nairn or Inverneſs, Brachlie, Croy, Ewan, Lunyn, and Petty, as appears by the charter of Moray, from the 1100 to 1286. At this day, they are repreſented, in the 20th generation, by the Duke of Atholl, Captain Sutherland of Duffus, and Mr Murray of Abercairny.

It is alſo by the charter of Moray inſtructed, that, between the year 1203 and 1222, William, the ſon of William Freſkyn, obtained the conſent of Brucius, Biſhop of Moray, for building a domeſtic chapel, for the more commodious performance of the offices of devotion. It ſtood on its own conſecrated burying-ground, forſaken only in the courſe of the laſt 60 years, about 50 yards from the north end of the caſtle; and, though only 24 by 12 feet within, muſt have been the parent of the preſent pariſh church, which, with ſeveral others, was erected at the private expence of James VI. for civilizing the north of Scotland, in the year 1618, at which period the pariſh of Airndilly may be ſuppoſed to have been annexed.

A part alſo of the pariſh of Dundurcos has been of late conjoined, and a new church erected about two miles eaſtward, in a ſituation which ſome ſuppoſe to be more centrical. But the ſtipend, after both annexations, including the allowance for communion elements, is only 75*l.* 7 s. 2$\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling.

Although it is not certainly known that any man of peculiar eminence was born in the pariſh, yet it may be proper to notice, that Mr James Ferguſon, the aſtronomer, received the rudiments of his education here, under the patronage of the grandfather of the preſent Mrs Grant of Airndilly. Mr Ferguſon has himſelf publiſhed his life: It is only neceſſary therefore

therefore here to add, that, while a little boy who could hardly read, and employed in tending the cows, the family clock was the firſt object which elicited thoſe ſparks of mechanical genius which in due time ſhone with ſuch a bright and vigorous flame.

The people, on the whole, are induſtrious, economical, obliging, and kind, according to their manners and circumſtances; very attentive to the national religion; and there is no remembrance of any having been judicially puniſhed for the violation of the laws of morality or juſtice. They appear, in general, to enjoy the neceſſaries, and many of the comforts of life, and to be contented with that ſituation in the world which has been allotted to them by Providence. There are means by which their circumſtances might be meliorated; but, it being extremely probable they will not be adopted, it may be deemed officious to enumerate them here.

The difficulty and expence of procuring hands for the operations of agriculture, and the want of all police, either conventional or legal, reſpecting this object, has of late been ſo heavily and univerſally felt, that perhaps any ſpeculation that might contribute to turn the attention of the more diſcerning to this intereſting object, may not be deemed entirely nugatory.

In ſo far as this grievance hath ariſen from the diminiſhed value of money in the preſent opulent age, when, as in the days of Solomon, it may be ſaid "*of ſilver, that it is not any* "*thing accounted of,*" it cannot be regarded as any cauſe of complaint; for the price of labour muſt be proportional to that of other articles: But, in ſo far as the evil ariſes from the combined fraud, the falſehood, the ſtubbornneſs, and the domineering inſolence of that rank of ſociety, it ought to be repreſſed, although in due conſiſtence with the rights of

of men; and much delicacy, in this regard, is no doubt requiſite. It might tend, perhaps, to check the evil, were every agricultural ſervant, by law, obliged to produce to the maſter with whom he engages, and to the church-ſeſſion of the pariſh, when required, a certificate from the maſter whom he left, granted before two legal witneſſes, of the wages which he received, and of the diſcretion, fidelity, and diligence, which he maintained during the period of his preceding ſervice; the engaging maſter to forfeit equal to a quarter of year's wages, and the ſervant as much, to the pariſh fund, for every omiſſion of ſuch formality; to be recovered at the inſtance of the caſhier of the ſeſſion, by the warrant of one juſtice of the peace, or other judge ordinary, in the ſame ſummary manner in which the fines are levied on the abſentees from the ſtatute labour on the roads.

Thoſe who have been attentive to the operation of any new law, will be able perhaps to form a judgment of the effect of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, were it ſo framed as to admit of equal execution in England and in Scotland. It does not appear that it could be attended with much inconvenience to either party; and, while it would, in general, prevent impoſition on the maſter who engages, by an exaggerated account of the wages paid by the laſt maſter, as is now ſo generally the caſe, it would, in many inſtances, have the effect of rendering the ſervant diſcreet and diligent during the term of his ſervice, when ſo much as a quarter's wages depended on his behaviour.

Other improvements reſpecting diet, and the hours of labour, might be ſuggeſted; but it is probable the effect alone of the certificate may render theſe unneceſſary: At any rate, if regulations reſpecting the contract between maſter and ſervant ſhall be taken under the conſideration of Legiſlature,

every

every thing of this kind will be maturely digeſted, and ſufficiently provided for.

By the nauſeous draught of train oil in Lapland, and the more diſguſting beverage of Otaheite, it may be inferred, that man cannot be ſatisfied with the ſimple element alone of water. From the different circumſtances concomitant on the exciſe law in England and in Scotland, it would not be difficult to inveſtigate why beer has been the prevailing drink among the peaſantry of the ſouthern, while ardent ſpirits has ſo univerſally obtained among the ſame rank in the northern end of the iſland, to which muſt be attributed their aſperated and contracted features, rather than to the influence of their climate.

The Secretary of State for this department, by the reſtoration of its ancient families to their paternal fortunes; by increaſing the independence of its Judges, particularly the Sheriff-ſubſtitutes, on whom the adminiſtration of juſtice among the poor ſo much depends; by providing for the intereſt of the ſeamen and their connections; and by the repeal of the tax on water-borne coal, hath merited more of his native country than all his predeceſſors in office together. Characters ſo highly reſpectable are unpopular only among the blindeſt of the mob. To him it would be eaſy to model the law in ſuch a manner, that beer, inſtead of whiſky, ſhould in a ſhort time be generally adopted by all the labouring people in Scotland; and, by this means, while he would contribute to maintain, in a high degree, the purity of the morals, and the ſoundneſs of the conſtitutions of his countrymen, he would at the ſame time expand their countenances, and improve their whole exterior form to the higheſt elegance of ſymmetry and beauty.

NUM-

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF KILLIN.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr PATRICK STUART, *Minister.*

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE name of this parish is evidently Gaelic, and seems to signify the chapel, church-yard, or burying place of the pool *; the ruins of an old chapel, and the church-yard, being situated on a bank of the river of Lochy, and having one of the deepest pools in the river just behind them. From this circumstance the parish seems to have derived its name; but as the word Killin may signify in Gaelic, too, the burying place of Fingal †, a tradition prevails, owing probably to this very circumstance, that that great hero of the Highlanders was interred here, and that it is thence that the parish derives its name. A small eminence in the neighbourhood of the village of Killin, has been accordingly pointed out as his grave, but on being opened some years ago, no vestige appeared of any persons having been interred there. The parish is situated in the north-west corner of the county of Perth, in the district called Breadalbane, and in the presbytery of Dunkeld, and synod of Perth and Stirling,

* *Cill-liun.* † *Cill-Fhinn.*

ling. It is about 28 ſtatute miles in length, and, in moſt places, from 6 to 8 miles in breadth. It is bounded by the pariſh of Kenmore on the eaſt, by the pariſhes of Comrie and Balquidder on the ſouth, by the pariſh of Arrochar on the ſouth-weſt, by that of Clochandyſart or Glenorchay on the weſt, and by parts of the pariſh of Fortingal in Glenlyon on the north. From the pariſh church, which is ſituated in the village of Killin, at the weſt end of the lake called Loch-Tay, the pariſh extends 8 miles eaſt along the ſouth ſide of that lake, and to the weſtward about 20 miles, through a valley, the eaſt end of which is named Glendochart, and the weſt end of it Strathfillan. A village called Glenfalloch which breaks off from Strathfillan, and is about 7 miles in length, lying towards the ſouth-weſt, belongs alſo to the pariſh of Killin. Towards the north lies Glenlochy, a valley about 10 miles in length. It is ſeparated by a ridge of mountains from Glendochart and Strathfillan, and runs parallel to them, terminating, like Glendochart, in a pretty extenſive plain, at the weſt end of Loch-Tay. Moſt of the farms in Glenlochy belong, according to the antient arrangement of theſe pariſhes, to the neighbouring pariſhes of Kenmore and Weem, but, from their vicinity, depend entirely on Killin for church privileges, though not formally annexed thereto, *quoad ſacra*; and the caſe is the ſame with the farms to the eaſtward of the village of Killin, for two or three miles alongſt the north ſide of Loch-Tay.

Soil and Surface.—The ſoil of the greater part of this pariſh is light and dry, but abundantly fertile when the ſeaſon is favourable. As it lies moſtly on gravel, however, it is apt to be parched up in dry ſeaſons, particularly alongſt the declivities of the hills. A conſiderable part of the ſoil in the pariſh too is wet and marſhy. This kind abounds moſt in the plain which lies at the weſt end of Loch-Tay, and in the

bottoms of the valleys of Glenlochy and Glendochart, which are ſubject to the overflowings of the rivers of Lochy and Dochart running through them. Theſe rivers, being ſuddenly ſwelled by the rains, deſcend frequently with conſiderable impetuoſity, overflowing their banks, to the no ſmall prejudice of the fields and meadows which lie along the ſides of them. The ſurface of the ground in the pariſh is generally unequal. The bottoms of the valleys are moſtly level, conſiſting chiefly of meadows and arable ground. The hills riſe with a gentle ſlope, and are cultivated and inhabited in many parts a good way up. They riſe, in many places, to a conſiderable height, and carry rich graſs to the very top. In the higher parts of them, it is generally interſperſed with pretty rank heath, which the ſhepherds of late years have been at pains in burning, and the ſheep, ſince the more general introduction of them into the country, contribute to keep under.

Lakes and Rivers.—Loch-Tay, by the ſide of which a great part of the pariſh of Killin lies, is the only remarkable lake in the country. It is a freſh water lake, 15 Engliſh miles in length, and reckoned about a mile in breadth. It lies from weſt to eaſt, and out of it the river Tay iſſues. There is another lake at the weſt end of Glendochart, called Lochdochart. It lies alſo from weſt to eaſt, is about 3 miles in length, and forms the boundary betwixt Strathfillan and Glendochart. The river of Fillan falls into the weſt end of it, after running for 7 miles through Strathfillan, and the river of Dochart iſſues out of it, which runs for 8 miles through Glendochart, before it joins the Lochy and enters into Loch-Tay. The river of Lochy, runs for about 10 miles through Glenlochy, and theſe rivers of Lochy and Dochart evidently give their names to each of the valleys through

through which they run. They are but ſmall, and moſtly clear and rapid, being formed chiefly of the ſtreams that fall into them from the adjacent hills. There is another ſmall river, named Falloch, which runs through Glenfalloch, and ſeems to give its name to that valley. It diſcharges itſelf into the north end of Lochlomond.

Fiſh.—Salmon and trout are the kinds of fiſh that abound moſt in the lakes and rivers of this pariſh. The ſalmon of Loch-Tay are rich and large; and it is a remarkable circumſtance reſpecting this lake, that, excepting for about two months in the middle of winter, the ſalmon are found clean therein during the whole year. They go weſt the river Dochart in conſiderable numbers in the ſpring and ſummer months, but few or none of them are found in the Lochy; owing probably to ſome conſiderable falls in that river. There are ſome trout of a large ſize found in Loch-Tay, but they are rare; and the trout in the rivers of Lochy and Dochart, and in ſome lakes in the adjacent hills, though pretty numerous, are generally of a ſmall ſize. Loch-Tay, and the rivers that fall into it, have alſo eels, pike, and perch in them. The char, too, are in the lake, but they ordinarily keep by the depths, ſo that they are ſeldom got but in the end of autumn and beginning of winter, when they proceed up the rivers in great numbers to ſpawn *.

Hills and Woods.—The pariſh of Killin abounds in high hills,

* There is a circumſtance not unworthy of notice, that the Earl of Breadalbane has, by his charters, the privilege of fiſhery for ſalmon upon Loch-Tay at all ſeaſons, without any reſtraint from ſtatutory reſtriction. This privilege is ſaid to have been intended, for ſupplying with fiſh the nuns of a convent upon the iſland at the eaſt end of Loch-Tay, founded, it is ſaid, by one of the Scottiſh Queens.

hills, which are not rocky, but covered with graſs and heath in moſt parts to the tops of them. The higheſt mountain in the pariſh is Benmore, which is ſituated by the ſide of Lochdochart, in the paſs betwixt Glendochart and Strathfillan. Its figure is conical, and, by Stobie's map of the county of Perth, its elevation above the level of the ſea is 3903 feet. It was in former times a deer foreſt, but is now converted into a ſheep-walk.

There is a conſiderable quantity of wood in the pariſh, both natural and planted; and it thrives very well in moſt parts of it. Even in Strathfillan, and in the higher parts of the pariſh, where there is now rather a want of wood, it is very evident it once abounded; the trunks of trees being ſo frequent in the ground, that the natives within theſe few years made a practice of digging them up, and uſing them for light and fuel. The natural woods conſiſt chiefly of oak, aſh, hazel, alder, and birch; and the plantations of Scotch and ſilver fir, plane, beech, and elm. They are now moſtly incloſed, and taken ſufficient care of by their ſeveral proprietors.

Game, &c.—There is a great variety of game, both in the woods and hills of the pariſh. The moſt numerous wild quadrupeds are hares of both kinds, the white and common hare. Roes are in ſome of the woods, but they are rare. Wild cats, martins, weaſels, badgers, and otters, are not uncommon. The fox, which was formerly ſo deſtructive to the ſheep of the country, is now moſtly extirpated.—Of the winged kind, tarmagans, dotterels, and plovers, are on the tops of the mountains; grous and black game in the hills; and partridges in the corn fields. The ravenous birds that prevail moſt, are eagles, hawks of different kinds, ravens, crows, and magpies. Ducks of various kinds, herons, ſea-

ſea-gulls, and wild geeſe, frequent the lakes and rivers. The cuckoo, ſwallow, and other migratory birds that are common in the reſt of the internal parts of the kingdom, pay their annual viſit here. Some birds are found in this country, which are reckoned rare; as the ſcaup-duck, the water-rail, the ring-ouzel, the greater ſpotted wood-pecker, the nut-hatch, the greater and leſſer red-polls, &c.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The climate is various, but generally moiſt and cold. This is much owing to the particular ſituation of the pariſh. The diſtrict of Breadalbane, in which it lies, is one of the higheſt in Scotland, and fartheſt removed from the ſea *; and as it abounds in high mountains, the clouds, floating in the atmoſphere, frequently break upon the tops of them, and fall down in rain through the valleys. The ſnow, too, reſts long upon the hills; and, owing to theſe circumſtances, the ſpring is generally late and cold. But when ſummer commences, by the reflection of the ſun from the adjacent hills, the heat is much greater than in level countries, and vegetation advances with great rapidity. The diſeaſes that prevail moſt among the inhabitants are ſuch as are principally owing to the influence of climate, as rheumatiſms, pleuriſies, &c. The people are, in general, however, very healthy, which is much owing to their ſober and induſtrious mode of living. Seventy and eighty years is not an uncommon age attained by them, and there have been more than one inſtance of perſons in the pariſh who have outlived their 100th year within the preſent century. The

* The height of this country is intimated by its name, *Braid-Albainn* being a Gaelic word, which ſignifies the higheſt part of Scotland; and as an evidence of its height, it is to be obſerved, that at Carn-drom, in the weſt end of the pariſh, the waters divide, and run partly into the eaſtern, and partly into the weſtern ſea.

The great mortality, occaſioned in former years by the ſmall-pox among the children, has been of late in a great meaſure prevented by the introduction of inoculation.

State of Property.—The landed property of the pariſh is divided among 5 proprietors, who all hold their lands of the Crown. More than half of the land in the pariſh is the Earl of Breadalbane's property. Mr Drummond of Perth has one farm therein, on which there is a feu of ſome acres, with a long leaſe; and the remainder is divided among three gentlemen, who have each of them a right to a freehold qualification in the county, have places of reſidence, and ordinarily reſide in the pariſh. The valued rent of the whole pariſh is 3115 l. 6 s. 8 d. Scots. The real rent amounts to about 3000 l. Sterling.

Cultivation and Produce.—As this pariſh was never completely ſurveyed, the exact number of acres it may comprehend has not been aſcertained; nor the proportion that the paſture ground therein bears to the arable. The greateſt part of the land is evidently calculated for paſture; but there is alſo a conſiderable quantity of arable ground, which is kept in conſtant tillage. The principal crops raiſed in this pariſh are oats, peaſe, potatoes, flax, and bear or big. Oats and peaſe are ſown commonly from the beginning to the end of April; bear and potatoes from the beginning to the middle of May. A conſiderable quantity of flax is raiſed in the pariſh, and ſown about the end of April. The rotation of crops ordinarily obſerved, is to ſow oats in lea ground, or after fallowing; potatoes or bear after oats; and flax after bear or potatoes. The increaſe from theſe different kinds of ſeed varies much, according to the quality of the ground and the nature of the ſeaſon. Oats generally return from

3 to 4 after the grain ſown; barley and peaſe from 3 to 5; potatoes from 10 to 16; and flax from half a ſtone to a ſtone, after the lippy of ſeed. Owing greatly to the ſcarcity of inclosures, turnips and ſown graſs are little cultivated in the pariſh, except by a few gentlemen, with whom they anſwer well, and who derive much benefit from them. The harveſt uſually begins about the middle of Auguſt, and the crop, except in very wet and cold ſeaſons, is ſecured by the end of September or beginning of October.

Price of Grain and Proviſions.—The grain produced in this pariſh itſelf is never ſufficient for ſupplying its inhabitants with that article. There are, beſides, ſome hundred bolls of meal imported into it annually. The average price of oats here is 12 s. of bear 16 s. and of potatoes 4 s. per boll. Oat meal is ordinarily ſold at 16 s. and bear meal at 12 s. per boll; but in the years 1782 and 1783, oat meal ſold here at 1 l. 3 s. and 1 l. 4 s. per boll; and the different crops failed ſo far, in this and the adjacent countries, in theſe two ſeaſons, that the natives of this pariſh had been much at a loſs for meal at any price, were it not for ſome peaſe meal brought from the ſouth, which ſerved greatly to relieve their diſtreſs. The price of beef, mutton, veal, and pork, is generally regulated by the prices of our cattle markets, being about 3 d. per lib. of 17½ oz.—Butter is 9 d. per lib. of 22 oz. tron weight.—Cheeſe varies in its price, according to its richneſs and age, being from 5 s. to 7 s. per ſtone of 22 lib.

Price of Labour.—The price of all kinds of labour is greatly advanced here of late years. The wages of men labourers are 1 s. a day from the 1ſt of March to the 1ſt of November, when they furniſh their own proviſions. Men working

working at peats are allowed 8 d. per day, and women 6 d. with their meat. The wages of a carpenter and maſon are from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. per day; of a taylor, 1 s. without meat, or 8 d. with it. Domeſtic men-ſervants get from 7 l. to 10 l. Sterling of wages, and women from 2 l. to 3 l. Sterling.

Villages, &c.—Killin and Clifton are the only villages in this pariſh. The village of Kiſſin is ſituated at the weſt end of Loch-Tay, betwixt the rivers of Lochy and Dochart, which join a little to the eaſtward of the village, before they enter the lake. The windings of theſe rivers through the plain at the end of the lake, and the ſurrounding hills, in many parts ſkirted with wood, ſerve to render the ſituation of the village both pictureſque and pleaſant. In ſummer, particularly, there is a variety in the ſcene that moſt ſtrangers are pleaſed with; and it is one of thoſe landſcapes that Mr Pennant was ſo much gratified with, as to give a view of it in his tour. The village itſelf is but ſmall, and formed on no regular plan. It contains only about 150 ſouls, but the diſtrict of country that ſurrounds it, is for ſeveral miles cloſely inhabited. Moſt of the villagers are tradeſmen, who have an acre of ground, alongſt with a houſe and garden, for each of which they pay rent to the Earl of Breadalbane. There are 6 fairs held here annually, at which a good number of cattle is ordinarily ſold, with a conſiderable quantity of woollen and linen yarn, beſides a variety of other articles imported and exported out of the country. At Killin, too, the family of Breadalbane held their baron-bailie courts, for ſettling any little differences which may occur, and for maintaining order among their tenants. Clifton is a ſmall village, which lies in the weſt end of the pariſh. It contains about

200

200 perſons, who have hitherto earned their bread principally in working at a lead mine in that neighbourhood.

Inns, Ale-houſes, &c.—There are ſeveral houſes in this pariſh in which ale and ſpirits are ſold, but none that deſerve to be termed inns except two. One of theſe is in the village of Killin, and the other at Tyndrum, in the weſt end of the pariſh, being a proper ſtage betwixt Killin and Dalmaly in Glenorchay. A diſtillery, too, has been erected lately in the neighbourhood of the village of Killin, which is the only one in the pariſh.

Roads and Bridges.—The diſtrict of Breadalbane, in general, in which the pariſh of Killin is ſituated, is well ſupplied both with roads and bridges. The military road from Stirling to Fort William paſſes through a great part of this pariſh; and the improvements made lately on that line of road, with the great order in which it is now kept, ſerve to render the communication of this country with the ſouth of Scotland, and the weſt and north-weſt Highlands, eaſy and agreeable. The country roads through the pariſh were originally made, and are ſtill kept in repair, by the ſtatute labour, which is exacted in kind.

State of the Church.—The Earl of Breadalbane is ſole patron of the pariſh. The church was built in 1744, and, were it properly finiſhed within, might vie with moſt country churches for neatneſs and elegance. Beſides the pariſh church, which is ſituated in the village of Killin, there are two other chapels in the pariſh, the one at Strathfillan*, and

* There is a bell belonging to the Chapel of St Fillan, that was in high reputation among the votaries of that ſaint in old times. It ſeems to be of ſome mixed metal. It is about a foot high, and of an oblong form. It uſually lay on a grave-ſtone

the other at Ardeonaig; and it was cuſtomary for the miniſter of the pariſh to preach in the three places alternately.

But

ſtone in the church-yard. When mad people were brought to be dipped in the Saint's Pool, it was neceſſary to perform certain ceremonies, in which there was a mixture of Druidiſm and Popery. After remaining all night in the chapel, bound with ropes, the bell was ſet upon their head with great ſolemnity. It was the popular opinion, that, if ſtolen, it would extricate itſelf out of the thief's hands, and return home ringing all the way. For ſome years paſt this bell has been locked up, to prevent its being uſed to ſuperſtitious purpoſes.

It is but juſtice to the Highlanders to ſay, that the dipping of mad people in St Fillan's Pool, and uſing the other ceremonies, was common to them with the Lowlanders. The origin of the bell is to be referred to the moſt remote ages of the Celtic churches, whoſe miniſters ſpoke a dialect of that language. Ara Trode, one of the moſt antient Icelandic hiſtorians, tells us, in his 2d chapter, that when the Norwegians firſt planted a colony in Ireland, about the year 870, "Eo tempore "erat Iſlandia ſilvis concreta, in medio montium et littorum: "Tum erant hic viri Chriſtiani; quos Norwegi Papas appel- "lant: et illi peregre profecti ſunt, ex eo quod nollent eſſe hic "cum viris Ethnicis, et relinquebant poſt ſe nolas et baculos: "ex illo poterat diſcerni quod eſſent viri Chriſtiani." *Nola* and *bajula* both ſignify hand-bells. See Du Cange. Giraldus Cambrenſis, who viſited Ireland about the end of the 12th century, ſpeaks thus of theſe relicts of ſuperſtition: "Hoc non "praetereundum puto, quod campanas, bajulas baculoſque "ſanctorum ex ſuperiore parte recurvos, auro et argento aut "aere confectos, tam Hiberniae et Scotiae quam et Givalliae "populus et clerus in magna reverentia habere ſolet; ita ut "juramenta ſupra haec, longe magis quam ſuper evangelia, et "praeſtare vereantur et perjurare. Ex vi enim quodam oc- "culta, et iis quaſi divinitus inſita, nec non et vindicta (cujus "praecipue ſancti illi appetibiles eſſe videntur) plerumque pu- "niuntur contemptores." He elſewhere ſpeaks of a bell in Ireland, endowed with the ſame loco-motive powers as that of St Fillan. Topog. Hiber. L. 3. c. 33. & L. 2. c. 23. For in the 18th century it is curious to meet with things, which aſtoniſhed Giraldus, the moſt credulous of mortals, in the 12th. St Fillan is ſaid to have died in 649. In the 10th year of his reign, Robert the Bruce granted the church of Killin in Glendochart to the Abbey of Inchaffray, on condition that one of the canons ſhould officiate in the kirk of Strathfillan.

But a miſſionary is now eſtabliſhed in each of theſe ſtations, with a ſalary of 50 l. Sterling, ariſing chiefly from funds mortified by the late Lady Glenorchay, and left under the management of the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, together with a manſe and glebe from the Earl of Breadalbane. The miſſion at Strathfillan, in the weſt end of the pariſh, comprehends alſo the adjacent parts of the pariſh of Glenorchay; and that at Ardeonaig to the eaſtward takes in the neighbouring parts of the pariſhes of Kenmore and Weem. The legal ſtipend of Killin is 55 l. 11 s. 1½ d. Sterling, with a manſe, office-houſes, and glebe. The heritors give beſides 35 l. 18 s. 8 d. Sterling of a gratuitous donation; and the patron allows 6 l. Sterling for diſpenſing the ſacrament annually. The preſent incumbent was ordained aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor to his father in the year 1780, ſucceeded him in 1789, and is the fourth that has been in the living ſince the Revolution. Excepting one family of Roman Catholics, there are no ſectaries of any denomination in the pariſh.

Schools.—The pariſh ſchoolmaſter here has a ſalary of 10 l. Sterling from the heritors, which, with ſchool dues, and ſome perquiſites as ſeſſion-clerk, makes his living a little better than 20 l. Sterling annually. He has alſo a houſe and garden, and has ordinarily about 70 ſcholars, ſeveral of whom learn Latin, Greek, and French with him. There are 3 other ſchoolmaſters in the pariſh, who teach only the reading of Engliſh and Gaelic, with writing and arithmetic; and 3 ſchoolmiſtreſſes, for teaching ſewing and knitting of ſtockings. One of theſe ſchoolmaſters has a ſalary of 14 l. Sterling from the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and each of the other two has 8 l. Sterling from the Society, and 5 l. from the Earl of Breadalbane; and the

ſchool-

ſchoolmiſtreſſes have each of them 5 l. Sterling from the Society annually.

Poor.—The average number of poor receiving alms in this pariſh, and the adjacent parts of the pariſhes of Kenmore and Weem, is about 80. The annual fund for their relief is about 30 l. produced by the collections in church upon Sundays, mort-cloth dues, fines on delinquents, and the intereſt of a ſmall ſum appropriated for their uſe. About 10 of theſe are confined to bed, who receive the greateſt part of their ſubſiſtence from the charity of their neighbours in more affluent circumſtances. Here it is but doing juſtice to the inhabitants to obſerve, that they are, in general, remarkably charitable. The noble family of Breadalbane, in particular, deſerve much praiſe. For many years paſt, they have been in the uſe of giving meal annually to the poor of the pariſhes of Killin and Kenmore, to the amount of above 100 bolls. A great number of beggars from the neighbouring counties infeſt the pariſh, particularly in the ſummer and harveſt months, many of whom are neither needful nor deſerving of charity.

Population.—By a late ſurvey, there are at preſent 2360 ſouls in the pariſh, 1135 of whom are males, and 1225 females. Among theſe are 36 weavers, 22 taylors, 19 ſhoemakers, 14 wrights, 9 flaxdreſſers, 7 merchants, 6 ſmiths, and 2 bakers. There are 1136 inhabitants in the adjacent parts of the pariſhes of Kenmore and Weem. It might be apprehended that this pariſh has been greatly depopulated within theſe 60 years, by the union of farms, and the number of ſheep introduced into it; and it muſt be admitted, that, owing to theſe cauſes, the number of the people has decreaſed conſiderably in the higher parts of the pariſh within

in that period. But, ſo far as the population of the pariſh is to be judged of from the ſeſſion records, it may be concluded, that it has increaſed in the lower parts thereof, and particularly in the village of Killin, with the diſtrict of country that ſurrounds it, nearly in the ſame proportion in which it has decreaſed in the higher parts. The regiſter of births in the pariſh has been kept with much exactneſs during the period ſpecified, from which it appears, that the total number of births in the pariſh for 60 years, preceding the year 1790, amounts to 6916, at the annual average of 115, with little difference. An abſtract of the births and marriages in the pariſh, for 10 years preceding the year 1790, is ſubjoined. Owing to the number of places of interment, no regiſter of deaths has been ever kept in the pariſh.

Years.	*Births.*	*Marriages.*
1780	120	17
1781	128	22
1782	107	19
1783	59	21
1784	136	29
1785	120	20
1786	129	24
1787	118	23
1788	115	45
1789	129	30

REGISTER

REGISTER of BIRTHS in the PARISH of KILLIN for 60 years preceding the year 1790, with the Difference of every 10 years; also the Average.

	Births.			Births.			Births.			Births.			Births.			Births.	
1790	103		1780	120		1770	106		1760	97		1750	143		1740	73	
89	129		79	118		69	125		59	122		49	153		39	138	
88	115		78	108		68	114		58	85		48	141		38	138	
87	118		77	117		67	115		57	97		47	139		37	112	
86	129		76	114		66	95		56	122		46	113		36	86	
85	120		75	116		65	107		55	117		45	142		35	134	
84	136		74	90		64	108		54	127		44	137		34	116	
83	59		73	97		63	137		53	103		43	99		33	82	
82	107		72	128		62	92		52	137		42	93		32	165	
81	128		71	115		61	133		51	118		41	73		31	115	
		1144			1123			1132			1125			1233			1159
			Diff.	21					Diff.	7					Diff.	74	
Aver.	$114\frac{4}{10}$		Aver.	$112\frac{3}{10}$		Aver.	$113\frac{2}{10}$					Aver.	$123\frac{3}{10}$		Aver.	$115\frac{9}{10}$	

Total number of Births for 60 years, 6916—average $115\frac{16}{60}$.

Number

Number of Horſes, &c.—The number of horſes in the pariſh is computed to be about 400, and of black cattle from 1780 to 1800. They are moſtly of the Highland breed, except a few of the lowland or mixed breed, kept by ſome of the gentlemen and better farmers. Stocking with ſheep is now become ſo prevalent, that all the extenſive grazings in this country are laid under them. The number of ſheep ſuppoſed to be in the pariſh, at preſent, is from 26,000 to 27,000, and all of them of the Linton breed. Since potatoes have become more plentiful, ſwine have become more numerous. There are about 150 of them at preſent in this pariſh.

Mines, Minerals, &c.—The only mine in the pariſh is a lead-mine, which has been wrought at Carn-drom, in the weſt end of it, for theſe 40 years paſt. But it is given up for the preſent, which proves a temporary inconvenience to a number of poor people in the village of Clifton, in its neighbourhood, who depended chiefly for their ſubſiſtence upon the employment they got in it. There are no mineral ſprings of any note in the pariſh. Search has been repeatedly made for coals, but hitherto without ſucceſs. Peats, and ſome barren timber, are the only fuel uſed. Lime-ſtone abounds in moſt parts of the pariſh.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Towards the beginning of the preſent century, the people of the country were rather averſe to induſtry. The ſpirit of clanſhip which prevailed was very unfavourable to it. The different clans ſpent a great part of their time in avenging themſelves of each other; the man who could beſt handle his ſword and his gun was deemed the prettieſt fellow; and the attentive induſtrious man was a character held in a degree of contempt. The people,

in

in general, were conſequently poor, rents were ill paid, and ſometimes not at all. The family of Breadalbane, who were ſuperiors of the country, adopted very wiſe plans for its improvement. A Sheriff-ſubſtitute was got to Killin for ſettling differences; a check was given to knavery; the ſober and induſtrious among the people were ſupported and encouraged; and the turbulent and irregular expelled the country, to which they were ſo much attached, that it was reckoned no ſmall puniſhment by them. Theſe means, together with the happy change in the times, have had very good effects. The people of Breadalbane are now ſober, regular, and induſtrious. They are, in general, rather in eaſy than affluent circumſtances. They pay their rents punctually, and live comfortably. Moſt of the farms in the lower parts of the pariſh are divided among ſeveral tenants. The arable and paſture ground being ſeparated, each has his own diviſion of the arable, and their cattle feed in common in the paſture ground. In this manner they live harmoniouſly together; and poſſeſſions deſcend, particularly on the Breadalbane eſtate, from father to ſon. Gaelic is the language generally ſpoken in the country; but moſt of the younger people underſtand leſs or more of the Engliſh language, and can converſe in it. They make a practice, when young, of going for ſeveral years to ſerve in the low country, principally for the purpoſe of learning the Engliſh language. The generality of the people are lively and intelligent, without being turbulent, have a competent ſhare of knowledge, and attend religious ordinances regularly, and with great decorum. Scarcity of fuel, and diſtance from markets, are the principal diſadvantages to which this pariſh is ſubject; but the laſt of theſe diſadvantages is now greatly alleviated by the goodneſs of the roads leading into it, and paſſing through it.

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NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF ARBUTHNOT.

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.—PRESBYTERY OF FORDUN.—SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS).

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, Name, and Extent.

THE name of this parish was anciently written Aberbuthenoth, as appears from several old writings extant in the neighbourhood; but whence it could be derived is uncertain, as there is no river, or rivulet, whose influx within its bounds could have occasioned it, if we except one called Fothy or Forthy, which falls into the river Bervy, on the western boundary of the parish; but that rivulet has born its present name above 600 years in the bounding charters of some neighbouring estates. Perhaps the river Bervy, of old, may have born another name, which occasioned the name of Aberburhenoth, by its influx into the sea, which is about a quarter of a mile below the extremity of this parish.

The parish is nearly of an oblong triangular form, with the exception of two farms which form a projection southward of the water of Bervy, which is the boundary of the rest of that side, dividing it from the parishes of Bervy and Garvock, five miles in length.

Upon the west side it is bounded by the parishes of Fordun and Glenbervy, or the great hollow of the Mearns, the rivers

Bervy and Forthy forming this line of diviſion, for the moſt part about three miles in length; and on the north eaſt ſide it is bounded by the pariſhes in Glenbervy and Kinneff, about ſix miles in length, back to the river Bervy, where the ſouthern boundary commenced, forming a ſharp angle near the mouth of that river.

Surface.—The ſurface is unequal, preſenting particularly two riſing grounds or ridges, with hollows or valleys betwixt them, and the boundaries of the pariſh on each ſide, where the ground again riſes to ſtill greater height. The one of theſe ridges commences at the eaſtern angle, running weſtward about two miles, where the other begins a little obliquely upon the one ſide toward the Bervy river, forming a wide hollow betwixt it and the northern boundary, which reaches to the weſtern boundary, and joins the hollow of the Mearns. The narrow valley in which Bervy river runs, is highly pictureſque and beautiful, containing the manſions of Arbuthnot and Allardyce, with the church ſituated between them.

Soil.—The ſoil is various. Along the ſouthern valley it is ſtrong clay; upon the riſing grounds above mentioned it is light land; and in the bottom of the northern valley it is wet and ſwampy, being moſtly in rough paſture; but the fields toward the northern boundary, where the ground again riſes, are more dry, and of a lighter ſoil.

The air, in general, is moiſt, owing to the nature and poſition of the ſurface, its natural wetneſs and exhalations from the ſtreams with which it is watered; yet it has never been obſerved to be particularly unfavourable to health; and the inhabitants, in general, are of good ſize, and many of them live to a great age.

Minerals.

Minerals.—Within this pariſh there are ſeveral freeſtone quarries of excellent quality. In one ſpot there is a rock full of peebles, with ſome green jaſper, of conſiderable beauty. No coal nor lime-ſtone have ever been here diſcovered; but ſome chalybeate ſprings indicate the preſence of iron.

Fuel.—The common fuel of the farmers is coal brought from the Frith of Forth, and landed at ſome of the neighbouring creeks upon the coaſt. The fuel of the poorer ſort is a coarſe ſort of turf from the moors, and ſtill a worſe peat ſod dug from the moraſſy grounds.

Heritors, &c.—The proprietors are four in number, of whom only one is reſident, the Viſcount of Arbuthnot. By a map of the county, executed in 1774, it appears that there are in this pariſh 7785 Scotch acres, or 9893, Engliſh, of which about one third may be ſuppoſed arable, the reſt being wet rough paſture and moor. The moſt of the land lies open. The rent is various, according to the different ſoils and progreſs of improvement, from 1 l. to 7 s. 6 d. per acre, arable, with the paſture gratis. The rent of the whole pariſh is about 1900 l. Sterling, of which a conſiderable part is victual.

Ploughs.—According to the old manner of eſtimating the extent of farms by ploughs of four horſes, there are here reckoned 54 ploughs; of theſe there are 14 poſſeſſions rated at 2 ploughs each; twenty-two of one plough each; five of half a plough; and 6 of a quarter each. At preſent, moſt part of the ground is tilled by the common foot-plough, with four horſes, or ſix oxen, and ſome of the improved ground with two horſes. But oxen are little uſed for the plough, though

though many are reared for ſale. The whole number of oxen ploughs is 13.

The number of draught horſes is	228	
Saddle, ditto - - -	4	
Carriage, ditto - - -	6	
		238
Oxen and ſteers - -	610	
Cows and queys - - -	449	
		1059
Sheep - - -		268

Produce.—The produce of the pariſh is more than ſufficient for its own ſupply. The moſt general crops of grain are oats and bear, with a little barley and wheat Turnip and potatoes are likewiſe very general. A conſiderable quantity of clover and rye-graſs now begins to be ſown, though not ſo much as is neceſſary to good farming, upon even the improved lands; the ground not being ſufficiently reſted, and the horſes chiefly fed upon ſtraw. Upon the eſtate of Allardyce, very conſiderable improvements have taken place under the direction and encouragement of Mr Barclay of Ury, now proprietor of theſe lands. By the leaſes granted by him for the laſt fourteen years, the tenants are bound to a mode of cropping the improved ground; to divide it into a courſe of four, five, or ſix crops, with a reſtriction not to take more crops of grain than the rotation of ſix admitted, viz. turnip, barley, and graſs, not leſs than two years, to be broken up with two ſucceſſive crops of grain of different kinds each year; and if any of theſe be wheat, it muſt be the firſt after graſs. As might be expected, the tenants have choſen to hold the courſe of ſix, preferably to the four or five years. (The information in this article is furniſhed by Mr Barclay himſelf). By theſe judicious rules the value of the eſtate is

ſo

ſo increaſed, that the tenants at preſent would be able to pay nearly four times the rent that was paid twenty years ago.

A great bar to improvement in this pariſh, is the want of roads, there being hardly a track in it which deſerves that name.

Of late, the practice of farmers letting ground to cottagers who do their work begins to be here laid aſide, as every where elſe through the country; by which, in a ſhort time, there muſt be a great deficiency of hands properly trained to agriculture; and ſervants drawn from towns, neither poſſeſs that hardy vigour, temperance, nor induſtry, ſo requiſite to the employment of the huſbandman. The ordinary wages of a farm ſervant, or ploughman, living in his maſter's family, is from 8 to 10 l. per annum. The wages of a labourer 1 s. per day, without victuals, or 8 d. with them. The women are much employed in ſpinning coarſe flax to manufacturers in Montroſe; by which they have, for ſome time, gained from 3 s. to 4 s. per week. The wages of a woman farm ſervant is from 3 l. 10 s. to 4 l. per annum, with a conſiderable difficulty of procuring them from the increaſed profit by manufactures.

There is a ſmall quantity, from 400 to 500 yards of the coarſeſt linen manufactured here, and bleached at home. Likewiſe a ſmall quantity of ticking and ſacking, from 200 to 300 yards, at 10 d. and 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. per yard. Theſe are for home uſe, and for ſale at the fairs through the country.

There are no villages in the pariſh, except about 20 houſes in one place, moſtly occupied by tradeſmen. Tradeſmens wages, ſuch as maſons and carpenters, is 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. per day.

Population.—With regard to population, there has never been

been any exact regiſter of births kept here, and no regiſter of burials at all.

The total number of ſouls in the year 1774 was 1040; and three years ago it was preciſely the ſame. At preſent there is only one more.

The number of males is -	494	
Females - - -	547	
		1041
Of theſe under 10 years of age, males	104	
females	147	
		251
Bachelors, houſeholders, -		15
Widows - - - -		47
Widowers - - -		15
Gardeners - - -		4
Wrights and houſe carpenters -		7
Maſons - - - -		2
Taylors - - - -		5
Shoemakers - - -		8
Weavers - - -		20
Dyer - - -		1
Millers (at 3 corn-mills) -		4
Smiths (ſmiths ſhops being 5) -		7
Shop-keepers - - -		2
Wheelwrights - - -		2
Cooper - - - -		1
Carrier - - - -		1
There are inhabited houſes -		230
Of which inhabited by ſingle perſons		27
Houſes of 2 inhabitants, chiefly old people, and newly married		35
Of 3 inhabitants - -		29
Ale-houſes - - -		2
Uninhabited houſes (cauſe, removal of cottagers) - - -		6

The

The general character of the people is induſtrious and ſober, little diſpoſed to change of place or employment. Hence the population has been ſo ſtationary.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—With reſpect to the eccleſiaſtical ſtate of the pariſh: The Viſcount of Arbuthnot is patron of the church. The clergyman has a living of 64 bolls of meal and bear, and about 42 l. Sterling, beſides a ſmall glebe of little value. The preſent incumbent was ſettled in the year 1780. The church is a very antient fabric of aſhlar work, but now in very bad repair. The manſe is almoſt ruinous, but is about to be repaired. To the church is adjoining an ayle of beautiful antique workmanſhip, which was built by an Alexander Arbuthnot, (deſigned, in the appendix to Spotiſwood's Hiſtory), brother to the Baron of Arbuthnot, and parſon of Arbuthnot and Logie Buchan. He was elected the firſt Proteſtant Principal of the King's College, Aberdeen, in the year 1569. The lower part of this ayle was intended, and has been uſed as a burial place for the family of Arbuthnot. And in the upper part was a well finiſhed apartment, filled with books chiefly in divinity, many of which remained there till of late. This was Mr Arbuthnot's library, which he bequeathed for the uſe of the clergy of the Mearns. There are 42 Epiſcopalians in the pariſh, and no other diſſenters.

Poor.—The number of poor in the pariſh is about 20. The proviſion for them conſiſts of the collections at the church, amounting annually to about 16 l. and the intereſt of ſome mortifications and ſeat rents, amounting to 11 l. 10 s. making in whole about 27 l. 10 s.

School.—The pariſh ſchoolmaſter has an endowment of 5 l. 17 s. 8 d. Sterling, together with 10 bolls 3 firlots of meal.

meal. This ſchool was formerly noted as a much frequented ſeminary for boys from all the country round, who were here boarded with the ſchoolmaſter. At preſent both ſchool and ſchool-houſe, like all the reſt of the public buildings here, are in ſo bad repair as to be unfit for the reception of any perſon.

Antiquities.—Under the article of antiquities and antient records, it is generally believed that ſeveral intereſting particulars might be had from the old writings of the family of Arbuthnot, if acceſs could be got to them. There is in general circulation, in the neighbourhood, a paper, of which the original remains with that family, bearing to be a judicial proof led by an eccleſiaſtical ſynod in the year 1206, with reſpect to part of the property now belonging to them, in which ſeveral circumſtances are deſerving of attention; particularly, therein mention is made of water corn-mills having been of a date prior to that period, which is contrary to the opinion of ſome of our late hiſtorians.

There is no viſible remain of antiquity within this pariſh, except ſome lines of a rampart thrown up in a regular manner upon a projecting point near to Bervy river, which is ſaid to have been the reſidence of a family of the name of Gellendris, who bequeathed the property to the Archbiſhop of St Andrews, to whoſe ſucceſſors a feu-duty is ſtill payable by the preſent proprietor. But this fortification has as much the appearance of being Roman, and bears the general name of the Caſtledykes to this day.

Eminent Men.—In former times this pariſh was not deficient in producing men eminent in public life. The family of Sibbalds of Kair was one of the moſt antient in the county, poſſeſſed of very extenſive property there. Among the laſt

laſt of them was Dr David Sibbald, who having been preceptor to the Duke of Glouceſter, ſon to King Charles I. ſuffered much on account of his loyalty in the civil wars, was impriſoned in London, and had his eſtate forfeited. However, he lived to ſee the reſtoration of King Charles II. and died in his own houſe of Kair, in the year 1661.

It alſo deſerves to be mentioned, that the celebrated Dr Arbuthnot, phyſician to Queen Anne, and one of the triumvirate with Mr Pope and Dr Swift, derived his birth and early education from this pariſh. He was ſon to Alexander Arbuthnot miniſter here, who was deprived for non-conformity in the year 1689. Dr Arbuthnot received the firſt part of his education at the pariſh ſchool of Arbuthnot, from whence he and his elder brother Robert (afterwards a banker at Paris) removed to the Mariſchal College of Aberdeen, about the year 1680.

Language.—As the names of the different farms in this pariſh are, for the moſt part, of Gaelic original, it would ſeem that, in former times, the Gaelic language had generally prevailed here. To perſons acquainted with that language, theſe names all appear to be deſcriptive of the ſituation and circumſtances which diſtinguiſh the ſeveral places. Much information might poſſibly be derived from this ſource, joined to the written evidence connected with the diſtrict, where property has been more fixed than in moſt parts of the county.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF TURREFF.

(PRESBYTERY OF TURREFF.—SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By ALEXANDER SIMPSON, *Schoolmaſter, King-Edward, Now one of the Miniſters of Old Aberdeen.*

Situation.

AFTER a courſe of many miles from weſt to eaſt, the Doveron, by altering its direction to the north weſt, forms an acute angle; and, winding through a beautiful and fertile vale, continues to flow in that direction, till it falls into the ſea at Banff, which is about 10 Engliſh miles diſtant from this place. On the ſouth and eaſt ſides of this angle, lies the pariſh of Turreff, that of Forglen of Old Towman being contained within it, on the oppoſite bank of the river. Near the angular point, where the Burn of Turreff falls into the Doveron, ſtand the town and kirk of Turreff, from whence to the extremities of the pariſh, the diſtance on all ſides, except weſtward, is nearly the ſame and no where exceeds 4½ Engliſh miles; ſo that a circle, of which the town of Turreff is the center, and the radius 4½ miles, will include both this pariſh, and a great part of that of Forglen. The other neighbouring pariſhes are Alvah, King-Edward, Monquhiter, Auchterliſt, and Inverkeithing.

Name,

Name, Antiquities, &c.—According to ſome, Turreff, in the Gaelic language, ſignifies towers. According to others, it ſignifies a mount or height. The ſituation of the town, and the vulgar pronunciation, Torra, an old law term ſignifying a mount, favour the laſt ſuppoſition. But the former is no leſs probable, becauſe near the church-yard gate, and on the ſouth ſide of the ſtreet betwixt it and the croſs, part of the vaults of an ancient tower is to be ſeen, from which, or ſome building of that kind, the weſt end of the town is ſtill called the Caſtlehill.

It is highly probable that Lathmon, the Pictiſh prince, whom Oſſian celebrates, had his ſeat in this parish. Not only do Lathers and Durlathers bear a ſtrong reſemblance to Lathmon and Dunlathmon, but the landſcape drawn by nature exactly correſponds with the deſcription of the poet. We may obſerve on the bank of the river, "the green "dwelling of Lathmon." We may wander, with "the blue-"ey'd Cutha in the vales of Dunlathmon;" and the halls of Nuath are only wanting to realiſe the deſcription of the dying Oithſna. "High walls riſe on the bank of Durranna, "and ſee their moſſy towers in the ſtream." A rock aſcends behind them with "its bending firs." On a farm adjoining to Lathers are the remains of a Druid temple.

A ſpot of ground on the ſouth ſide of the town called Temple-brae, and a houſe called Temple-feu give reaſon to ſuppoſe, that the Knights-templars once had a footing in this place. This is the more probable, as ſome of the old proprietors of this houſe, held their charters from the Lords Torphichan, to whom a conſiderable part of their lands had been given by the Crown, after the order of Knights-templars was diſſolved in the beginning of the 14th century. —Some houſes called Abbey-land, *Maiſon-Dieu*, or houſe of refuge, point out the ſituation of an hoſpital or alms-houſe, founded

founded here in 1272, by Alexander Cumin Earl of Buchan. This hospital was, among others, dedicated (*Sancto Congano*) to St Congan, supposed to be the tutelary saint of the place, from whom one of the annual fairs held here is called Cowan Fair. It was endowed with an yearly payment of 5 chalders of grain, instead of the tythes of the Castle of Kenedar, and a piece of land called Knockaibie. This piece of land, according to the description of its situation and marches, in the charter of foundation, comprehended all the lands, except Balmellie, presently attricted to the Mill of Turreff. The hospital was to contain a master and 6 chaplains, whose office it was to say daily prayers for the souls of the dead, and who were to appear in the dress of secular monks. Out of its revenues the master was appointed to furnish with a dwelling house, and to maintain 13 decayed husbandmen from the country of Buchan. The hospital was to be a sanctuary for criminals; but the master was bound to deliver up for trial all manifest malefactors; and if any of the people of the lands belonging to the hospital (over which the Earl of Buchan retained the right of criminal jurisdiction) should be capitally convicted, their escheat was to belong to the hospital. This charter is dated at Kellie, on Sunday after Candlemas 1272, in presence of William Earl of Mar, Lord Allan Hostear, Lord Regenalde Chen, Lord Andrew of Garmack, Lord Philip of Melgredum, Meldrum of that ilk, sequestrated by Urquhart of Meldrum, Lord John of Melville, Lord William of Melgdrum, Walter, rector of the church of Foverne, and Robert de Lylie, rector of the church of Slains, &c. By another charter, dated at Kenkell the 16th of October 1328, in presence of Randolph Earl of Moray, Alexander Fraser, Robert de Keith Marshall, Gilbert Hay Constable, &c. it appears that this hospital was farther endowed,

endowed, by King Robert Bruce, with the land of Petts *, for the maintenance of a chaplain to ſay maſs for the ſoul of his brother Nigell Bruce, who was taken priſoner by the Engliſh, about the year 1306, when the Caſtle of Kildrummie, where he then reſided, fell into their hands, and was by them afterwards put to death †.

Except ſome traditionary reports concerning a bead-houſe, which was a relict of it, there is no farther mention made of this hoſpital as a ſeparate eſtabliſhment: Nor is it of much importance to know how far its revenues were applied to the original purpoſes of its inſtitution. From a clauſe in the charter of foundation, there is reaſon to ſuppoſe, that the hoſpital was intended to be under the adminiſtration of the parſon of the pariſh. And it is the more probable, that the parſons or prebends of Turreff had been always the maſters of the hoſpital; as it appears from ſeveral records, that the lands with which it was endowed by the Earl of Buchan, continued in their poſſeſſion from the beginning of the 15th century to the time of the Reformation ‡.

In 1511, by a charter under the Great Seal, James King of Scots, out of love and favour to Thomas Dickſon prebend of *Turray*, and for building and improvements about the pariſh kirk of Turray, and the accommodation of the lieges reſorting to the ſaid kirk, with conſent of William Earl of Errol as patron, creates the whole kirk-lands, village, and glebe of the ſaid kirk of Turray into a free burgh of barony; and gives power to the inhabitants to have bakers, brewers, butchers, &c.; with power alſo to have in the ſaid burgh, free burgeſſes, and power to theſe to chooſe yearly, with conſent of the prebend, bailies, and other office bearers, for the government

* In the pariſh of Fyvie.

† Buch. lib. 8 30.

‡ See Chalmer's Dictionary, at the word Hoſpital.

vernment of the ſaid burgh; with power alſo to the burgeſſes and inhabitants, to hold weekly markets at the market croſs on Sunday, and public fairs at the feaſt of St Peter, called Lammas, and of St Congan, with the whole tolls, liberties, and privileges of free markets.—" Ac cum poteſtate et li-
" centia praefato magiſtro Thomae et ſucceſſoribus ſuis prae-
" fatae eccleſiae praebendariis, affidandi terras ſuas eccleſiaſti-
" cas, villam, et glebam antedictam in toto vel in parte, in
" particulas burgales haereditarie, pro aedificatione ſuper eiſ-
" dem facienda in proficium dictae eccleſiae et praebenda-
" riorum ejuſdem, vel ſaltem ſine detrimento eorundem."

Among other privileges, the feuers had the uſe and benefit of ſeveral pieces of land, viz. a piece of land on the banks of Doveron, called Dundabby; another called Feerward; another called Feuer-fold; another called Dargs-fold, or Monks-land; the haugh called Partyoke-vale; two lots of barren ground, called Back-hill and Common-mires, and the black Elden moſs for fuel. Some of theſe they ſtill enjoy.

Church, School, Poor, &c.—A new church has been built here this ſeaſon (1794) in a ſituation removed from the burying ground, and of a conſtruction more commodious for the people, as well as ornamental to the place, than the old church; the latter, 120 feet by 18. The eaſt end of it, including the quire, chancel, and veſtry, bears ſome marks of antiquity, and was formerly divided from the reſt of the building by a row of balliſters.

Since the admiſſion of Mr William Stuart, the preſent incumbent, in 1767, the manſe and office-houſes have been all rebuilt; and are at preſent in good repair.

The living, excluſive of the glebe, is 50l. in money, and 80 bolls of meal and bear.

The

The preſent ſchool-houſe was the Epiſcopal Chapel in 1745, when a party of the Duke of Cumberland's army demoliſhed the ſeats and pulpit, and were prevented from ſetting fire to the houſe itſelf by the interceſſion of Mr Andrew Ker, who was then miniſter of this pariſh.

About the beginning of laſt century, in compenſation, it is ſuppoſed of ſome privileges of which the feuers and inhabitants of Turreff had been deprived about the time of the Reformation, Lord Errol ſettled an yearly ſalary of 100 l. Scotch, and 1½ acre of land, for the maintenance of a ſchoolmaſter to teach their children. This ſalary has been regularly paid by the proprietors of Delgaty, who have the right of preſenting to the office. As none of the other heritors contribute in any manner to its ſupport, the ſchool cannot be denominated parochial. As ſeſſion-clerk, the ſchoolmaſter receives an annual ſalary of 2 l. 4 s. 5 d.; for regiſtering a baptiſm 10 d. of which the kirk officer gets one third; and for proclaiming a purpoſe of marriage, 20 d. of which the kirk-officer likewiſe gets one third, when the bride reſides in the pariſh. The ſchool is at preſent attended by 30 ſcholars, who are taught to read Engliſh at the rate of 2 s. and Latin and arithmetic at 2 s. 6 d. per quarter.

About the year 1727, Mr William Meſton, formerly one of the profeſſors of the Mariſchal College, but obliged to give up that place in 1715, on account of his political principles, commenced an academy in Turreff, for inſtructing young gentlemen in ſuch ſciences as were then taught in the univerſities. This academy, which was quite unconnected with the ſchool, continued to flouriſh for ſeveral years. In an account of the life of Mr Meſton, prefixed to his poems, a duel fought by two of the ſtudents attending this academy, viz. Mr Gordon of Embo, and Mr John Grant of Dentergas,

Dentergas, afterwards a major-general in the Prussian service, is mentioned as one cause of its dissolution.

The poor's funds are managed by the kirk-session, which meets every fourth month, to distribute to the poor a sum of money proportioned to their necessities, and the state of the fund. A disposition to his effects is generally required of every pensioner, previous to his being entered upon the roll: At his death, they are sold to defray the expence of his funeral; and the balance, if there be any, is added to the general stock.

The number and necessities of the poor were so much increased by the bad crop in 1782, that, to supply them, besides the ordinary collections, some meal sent by government, and 20 l. sent by an unknown hand, the session found it necessary to take 40 l. from the capital stock. By means of more liberal collections in the church, and partly by two legacies of 20 l. each, and one of 5 l. which, agreeably to the will of the donors, were given to poor people not on the list of pensioners, but who would otherwise have become such, the stock is now equal to what it was before the year 1782.

State of the Receipt and Expenditure of the Poor's Money in 1793.

Collected in the church	L. 33	1	8
For the Infirmary at Aberdeen	4	0	0
For a Chapel of Ease at New Byth	3	3	0
For the use of a mort-cloth	2	2	0
Penalties — — —	5	15	0
Interest of 60 l. at 4½ *per cent.*	2	14	0
Rent of houses — —	6	18	4
Effects of a pensioner —	0	12	0
Carried forward		L. 58	6

		Brought over		L. 58	6 0
Given to 30 poor	—	L. 31	3 0		
To the ſeſſion, preſbytery, and ſynod clerks, kirk-officer, and preſbytery burſary	—	4	11 5		
To the infirmary and chapel at New Byth	— —	7	3 0		
Repairing houſes, &c.	—	1	15 0		
				44	12 5
				L. 13	13 7

Number of People, &c.—The pariſh, at preſent, contains 2029 ſouls, of whom there are

Epiſcopalians	320	Lint-millers —	3
Roman Catholics	25	Flax-dreſſers —	7
Surgeons — —	4	Gardeners — —	10
Dyers — —	2	Bakers — —	3
Shoemakers —	36	Blackſmiths —	9
Square-wrights & coopers	28	Barber — —	1
Weavers — —	34	Sadler — —	1
Taylors — —	18	Bleacher — —	1
Shop-keepers —	16	Whiſky diſtiller —	1
Maſons — —	15	Families in the town of Turreff —	187
Exciſe-officer —	1	Number of ſouls in ditto	701
Plaiſterers — —	2	Families in the country part of the pariſh	264
Sellers of ale and whiſky	15	Number of ſouls in ditto	1328
Butchers — —	7		
Carriers — —	5		
Slaters — —	2		

Apprentices are included in the above liſts of tradeſmen and artificers.

Antient and Preſent Proprietors, Rent, &c.—The eſtate of Durlaithers, which had been long in the poſſeſſion of Dempſter of Auchterles, afterwards of Meldrum of Laithers of the family of Meldrum of Fyvie, was afterwards the property of John Ramſay of Barra; which, by judicial ſale in 1722, was purchaſed by Alexander Gordon of Auchintoul a general in in the Ruſſian ſervice; whoſe grand niece, Miſs Catharine Gordon of Auchintoul, is now the proprietor. In 1723 the eſtate of Balquhollie was ſold by the Mowats, the proprietors of the antient Mount Alto, to Alexander Duff of Hatton, a man of great character in the country. Lady Ann Duff, who was married to Alexander his ſon, is liferentrix of Balquhollie; and his grandſon, Captain Peter Duff, is the preſent proprietor of Hatton.

In 1726 the eſtate of Fintray, then the property of the Forbeſes of Touchon, was bought by the late Lord Bracco, father of James Earl of Fife, the preſent proprietor.

The eſtate of Torrie, which had remained in the poſſeſſion of the Barclays for 400 years and upwards, was ſold by them in 1752 to the late Earl of Findlater, at 10,000 l. whoſe ſon ſold it to the managers of Gordon's hoſpital and the infirmary of Aberdeen in 1792 at 21,000 l. Sterling. Except the lands of Fintray already mentioned, part of the eſtate of Caſtletown, which is the property of William Urquhart of Craigſton, and part of the eſtate of Balquhollie, all that part of the pariſh to the north of the burn of Turreff, and eaſt of the Doverne, called the eſtate of Delgaty, is the property of Captain Francis Garden of Troup, and was bought by his father, Peter Garden, Eſq; from the late Lord Errol in 1762, at 20,000 l. and is now of rent about 1400 l. yearly. In 1767 the eſtate of Muireſk was ſold by James Brodie to Alexander Dirom, Sheriff ſubſtitute of Banffſhire, at 5700 l. whoſe ſon, Major Alexander Dirom, is the pre-

preſent proprietor. The eſtate of Gaſk, which belonged of old to the Forbeſes, and more lately to the Fordyces, was ſold by the daughters of John Fordyce of Gaſk to James Mackie in 1769; who ſold it to George Robinſon now of Gaſk, writer to the ſignet, the preſent proprietor, in 1781. This eſtate has been an independent barony of itſelf for ſeveral centuries. It appears upon record, that in 1375, it belonged to the Turins of Foveran, who flouriſhed in Aberdeenſhire, in the days of King Robert Bruce. Afterwards it came into the family of Burnet of Leys. Thomas Burnet of Gaſk was killed at the battle of Flowden; and King James V. renewed the gift of the lands to his ſon William, then, and on that account, declared a 9l. land of old extent; on whoſe retour, A. D. 1514, does the preſent proprietor of Gaſk hold his freehold at this day. On this place is lately built a modern houſe, in a pleaſant ſituation, beautified with planting. Within the laſt 40 years, the land rent of the pariſh is ſuppoſed to be doubled, and to have increaſed more within that period than for 200 years before. This, among other cauſes, may be aſcribed to the practice of giving an additional yearly rent at the commencement of every new leaſe, inſtead of a graſſum, which was the general practice before the middle of this century.

The valued rent of the pariſh is 5459 l. 2 s. 10 d. Scots; and the real rent, valuing meal and grain at 10 s. for each boll of 8 ſtone Amſterdam weight, is about 2800 l. Sterling.

Services, or work done by the tenant to the heritor in harveſt, and on various other occaſions, not improperly called *bondages*, alſo the payment of ſheep, poultry &c. called cuſtoms, ſtill conſtitute a great proportion of the rent of ſome eſtates. The commutation of theſe into money, which has already taken place in the eſtates of Fintray and Torvie, it is hoped will be ſoon univerſally adopted. Exac-

tions

tions of this kind, particularly the firſt, are burdenſome to the tenant, without producing any adequate advantage to the heritor.

Extent, Soil, Agriculture, &c.——The pariſh contains about 16,896 Scotch acres, of which one third at leaſt is covered with heath. The hills and heath ground being ridged, appear to have been under cultivation at ſome former period; at leaſt that partial kind of it, called *balk and burral*, which conſiſted of one ridge very much raiſed by the plough, and a barren ſpace of nearly the ſame extent, alternately. A much greater quantity of this ſort of land was in tillage before, than ſince the years of famine in the end of laſt century; when many entire farms, of a wet or late ſoil, were allowed to lie waſte and uncultivated. Since the introduction of lime and agricultural improvements, the above method of managing out-field land has been relinquiſhed; and ſmall black oats, which was the only ſpecies of grain ſown in this kind of land, have given place to white oats.

The current of the Doverne being leſs rapid below than above the town of Turreff, the haughs and meadow ground along its banks are more extenſive and fertile. Though the pariſh contains almoſt every deſcription of ſoil, that ſpecies called a light loam is moſt common. Part of the lands in the vicinity of the town lets at 40 s. per acre. The medium rent of land in the country part of this pariſh is nearly the ſame as in the neighbouring pariſhes, and may be known by conſulting the ſtatiſtical reports of them.

Compared with what it was 20 years ago, the ſtate of agriculture is now much improved; at the ſame time, the want of incloſures, the prevailing practice of keeping too great a proportion of land under crop, and the extent of barren ground, ſhow that much remains to be done.

That improvements have not made greater progreſs, the ſmall ſtock of the greater part of tenants, the ſhortneſs of leaſes

leaſes (of which the impoveriſhed ſtate of land at the beginning and expiration of them is the natural conſequence,) the price of labour, and the diſtance from market, may be aſſigned as the principal cauſes. Under all, or a few of theſe diſadvantages, it muſt require the ſtricteſt economy, and the greateſt exertions of induſtry, in the tenant to ſucceed at all; his improvements at firſt muſt be very circumſcribed; and, as every future eſſay muſt depend upon the ſucceſs of the preceding, their progreſs muſt be ſlow.

For many years paſt the powers of lime in promoting vegetation has been known, and the quantity put upon land, for that purpoſe, is annually increaſing. But, long after its firſt introduction, the method of cropping land, after the application of lime, retarded rather than promoted the melioration of the ſoil. For a field after being limed, by having three or ſometimes four crops of oats in ſucceſſion, without the aſſiſtance of dung, was neceſſarily reduced to a more impoveriſhed ſtate than before. But experience ſoon taught the impropriety of a practice, which no doubt aroſe from conſidering lime not as a ſtimulus, but as a manure, and is now adopted by thoſe only of narrow circumſtances, and whoſe views reach no farther than a little preſent profit, or an indemnification for the price of the lime.

The quantity uſually given to an acre varies from 40 to 80 bolls of powdered lime *. It is, perhaps, a fortunate circumſtance, that lime has hitherto been applied to land ſo ſparingly; for 80 bolls, which is not more than what is neceſſary to have the deſired effect when accompanied with a proper rotation and interchange of green crops, would, by a contrary management, render the land unfit for producing a crop of any kind. For ſome years paſt, the importation of ſhell lime from England has been gaining ground; which at

* Each boll of ſtocked lime is equal to two corn firlots.

at 6½ d. per boll is found to be cheaper than what is manufactured at home of ſtones carried the diſtance of 12 or 14 miles.

Upon the whole, though a regular and judicious rotation of crops is not generally eſtabliſhed, and though much of the old ſyſtem of farming remains, it gives pleaſure to obſerve, that the ſpirit of improvement is rapidly extending its happy influence. The advantages of fallow and green crops are generally known, and the number of acres under turnip, potatoe, and ſown graſs is annually increaſing. In different parts of the pariſh, farms are to be found, which exhibit ſpecimens of extenſive improvement and ſkill in the management of them. Of theſe none has a juſter claim to be particularly mentioned, than that of Haughs of Aſhogle, poſſeſſed by George Gerard of Atidſtrath. In the year 1780, when his leaſe commenced, the produce of the farm was hardly ſufficient to maintain the ſervants and cattle neceſſary to work it. Since that time, upwards of 200 acres, of which a great part was formerly entirely barren, and the reſt in a very impoveriſhed ſtate, have been brought to produce weighty crops of corn and graſs. The rotation adopted by Mr Gerard, is oats, turnip, and ſown graſs for three or four years. The produce of this farm, which in the year 1780 was only 900 threaves, amounted to 2700 threaves in the year 1790. By the melioration of the ſoil and paſture, the number of cattle has been increaſed, and the breed improved in the ſame proportion. In 1780 the hill paſture, which could then maintain a flock of ſheep of the Scotch breed only, the medium value of which did not exceed 6s. a head, now maintains a flock of a mixed breed in the proportion of ⅔ Engliſh to ⅓ Scotch, the wethers of which give from 18s to 20s. each.

In a ſimilar manner, the farm of Mains of Torrie is managed by Mr Irvine; and extenſive improvements begun by the

the late Mr Dirom. Farming is carried on with equal ſpirit by Mr Gordon, who occupies the Mains of Muireſk, and this is a good cauſe why the price of the eſtate was ſo conſiderable. In no eſtate of the pariſh is there a ſet of more thriving and ſubſtantial tenants, than in that of Fintray; where agricultural improvements, though leſs rapid in their progreſs than in the inſtances now mentioned, which employ a greater capital than the majority of tenants can command, have been no leſs ſucceſsful.

The pariſh is accommodated with 7 corn mills, to ſome one of which the tenants of a certain diſtrict, called the *ſockcom* or ſockmen, or ſucken, are aſtricted. The multure conſiſts of three kinds; one called the thirlage, collected for behoof of the heritor; another called knaveſhip, which properly belongs to the miller for working and keeping the machinery of the mill in repair; and a third called dry or abſtracted multure, collected for grain ſold unmanufactured. At ſome mills, the two firſt amount to $\frac{1}{11}$ part of the produce in meal, and the third is generally $\frac{1}{14}$ of the grain ſold, and this is the practice generally through Buchan. Some of the heritors, conſidering the thirlage and abſtracted multures as too heavy a tax upon improvement, have allocated them upon their tenants, and fixed the knaveſhip at $\frac{1}{61}$ part of the grain brought to the mill and taken 4s 6d. on the pound of real rent for aboliſhing the multures. Beſides ſupplying itſelf, the produce of the pariſh in all ordinary years leaves a conſiderable ſurplus for exportation. The lateneſs of the harveſt, and the early froſts in 1782, gave reaſon to ſuppoſe that the crop of that year would be defective; but, accuſtomed to a plentiful ſupply in general, that deficiency was not at firſt ſuppoſed to be ſo great as it afterwards proved.

Upon the 1ſt of January 1783 a meeting of the proprietors

tors of the diſtrict of Turreff, or their factors, and of the miniſters of the following pariſhes, was held at Turreff for taking into conſideration the ſtate of the country, with reſpect to grain, and reported, that

	Bolls.	*Bolls.*
Turreff could ſpare	200	0
Monquhiter	needed a ſupply of	9000
Forgue could ſcarcely ſupply itſelf	0	0
Fyvie	500	0
King Edward, ſpare a little		
Drumblade	0	800
Auchterleſs		200

From which it was computed that theſe pariſhes would need a ſupply of 1200 bolls. But, inſtead of ſparing any, it was found that this pariſh alone needed a ſupply of 600 bolls; and all of them, Monquhiter and Drumblade excepted, needed as much more than was reckoned. Grain from England, which the peace, concluded in 1783, gave them an opportunity of purchaſing in greater plenty, and at a cheaper rate, than had the war continued, was imported by ſocieties, merchants, and gentlemen of landed property. For the benefit of his tenants in this and the other pariſhes with which he is connected, Lord Fife purchaſed grain to the amount of four thouſand pounds, which was ſold at a very reduced price, and his Lordſhip's example in ſelling the meal paid by his tenants at 16 s. per boll, and giving 5 s. in the pound

* A Gentleman in the neighbourhood told me that he purchaſed this year from Mains of Gaſk, a conſiderable quantity of oats for ſeed; part of it gave full meal for oats, was approved of by judicious farmers, and part of it applied for ſeed did not vegetate.

pound of deduction of rent, had no ſmall effect in regulating the price of that article, and keeping it within the reach of the poor that year. For many years paſt cattle have been the moſt profitable part of the farmers ſtock and the ſtaple commodity of the pariſh. The number of black cattle, annually reared in the pariſh, is ſuppoſed to exceed what it was 40 years ago, in the proportion of 3 to 1. Turnip and ſown graſs, which are more commonly applied to rearing for the drover and graſier, than feeding for the butcher, together with a greater demand from the Engliſh market, have been chiefly inſtrumental in promoting the breeding of young cattle. The pariſh can ſpare from 300 to 400 yearly. Though the breed, both with reſpect to ſize and the quality of wool, is much improved, the number of ſheep, kept at preſent in the pariſh, is perhaps not above one ſixth of the number which it contained half a century ago.

The breeding of cattle, and particularly horſes, would be carried to greater perfection, and attended with more profit, were the fields more generally incloſed. Though it can boaſt of producing many excellent draught and ſaddle horſes, yet a great part of theſe, uſed in the pariſh, is brought from other parts of the country.

By a ſtronger breed of horſes, and a more improved conſtruction of ploughs, carts, and other implements of agriculture, its operations are now greatly facilitated, and the increaſing price of labour in ſome meaſure compenſated.

	1744.			1774.			1794.		
	L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
Hire of a ploughman *per ann.*	1	8	8	4	10	0	7	10	0
Ditto of a woman farm ſervant	0	18	0	1	10	0	2	15	0
Ditto of a man for harveſt	0	11	4	1	9	0	1	15	0
Ditto of a woman for ditto	0	8	9	0	17	0	1	3	0

Corn fans and threſhing machines, of which laſt there are

already three, one turned by water and two by horſes, begin to be introduced into the pariſh.

Peat and turf are principally uſed for fuel. Though there is very little of it in the pariſh, moſt of the people have a right to moſs in ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes; a right which heritors were formerly careful to ſecure to their tenants; when the moſs to which they had ſuch right is exhauſted, which is the caſe with reſpect to ſome eſtates in this pariſh, recourſe is had to coals, broom, or to buying peat at the rate of 10s. 6d. for a *ſpade's caſting*, *i. e.* for as much peat as can be laid and dried upon 480 ells ſquare. The more expeditious methods of carrying on work do not now, as formerly, make it neceſſary to employ the whole ſummer in bringing home fuel; nor, ſince improvements in farming began, can ſo much time be afforded for that purpoſe; but the time neceſſarily conſumed in providing peat, and the difficulty of obtaining a ſufficient ſupply in wet ſeaſons, make this a very expenſive article, and point out the propriety of the late ſalutary repeal of the coal tax.

Mr Garden of Troup, who in many reſpects ſhews a laudable deſire of encouraging agricultural improvements and promoting the good of the country, has lately incloſed and planted with foreſt trees about 600 acres of barren ground on his eſtate in this pariſh. Plantations of the ſame kind, though leſs extenſive, have been made on the eſtates of Laithers, Muireſk, and Gaſk. At Balquhollie, called Hatton Lodge, there is a conſiderable quantity of wood of a more advanced growth; but it will be long before the pariſh can ſupply itſelf with this article.

One of the greateſt diſadvantages of this pariſh is the want of ſtones; of which few are to be found above ground fit for building, and of which, there is only one quarry of any conſequence as yet diſcovered. Hence the want of incloſures, and

and ſubſtantial houſes, for though they are more commodious and ſubſtantial than in former times, except thoſe of the more opulent farmers, very few houſes in the country are built entirely of ſtone.

Manufactures, &c.—Next to cattle and grain, the articles for which money is brought into the pariſh, are linen-yarn, either made of lint of the growth of the country, or of foreign lint given out to be ſpun by manufacturers; ſtockings made of wool given out by manufacturers, or of wool bought by the makers and ſold to merchants, called market or cargo hoſe; cheeſe and butter. For ſome years paſt great quantities of the laſt article have been bought up by merchants in different parts of the country, and ſent to Edinburgh, and other large towns.

About the year 1760, a carpet manufacture was eſtabliſhed here, which was carried on with ſucceſs for ſeveral years, and was not entirely given up till about 1780.

In 1767, Peter Garden, Eſq; of Delgaty and one Mr Baker began a thread and linen manufacture, and alſo laid out a field, and erected houſes and machinery for bleaching linen. The partners finding themſelves loſers, the linen manufacture was dropped about ten years after. A manufacture of thread, which generally employs about 10 hands, is ſtill carried on; and about 400 or 500 pieces of cloth were whitened at the bleachfield laſt ſeaſon. In the year ending November 1793, about 666 yards of linen, and 6696 yards of harn or brown linen were ſtamped here for ſale. Of the firſt kind, it is ſuppoſed that more than the quantity here ſpecified, and of the laſt, ſcarcely one third, was then made in the pariſh. At preſent, one weaver only makes linen for ſale on his own account; the reſt, as well as all the other handicraftſmen, depend upon the caſual employment of the country around,

and

and have ſmall pieces of land, which employ the greateſt part of their time.

That the attempts to eſtabliſh manufacturers in this place have hitherto failed, cannot be aſcribed to any local diſadvantages. Situated in a healthful and pleaſant country, ſurrounded with a great extent of fertile and improveable land, having the command of abundance of water, and the privilege of nine yearly fairs, Turreff ſeems to be well calculated for carrying on any branch of manufacture with ſucceſs. Being diſtant only ten miles from the ports of Banff and Macduff, the expence of fuel cannot be mentioned as an obſtruction, which a ſpirit of induſtry and interpriſe may not eaſily ſurmount.

Mr George Robinſon of Banff has revived the manufactury begun by Mr Baker; and Mr Kemp, near Turreff, has begun a thread manufactory, on the eſtate of Gaſk in the vicinity of Turreff.

NUM-

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF MORTLACH.

(COUNTY OF BANFF —PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE. SYNOD OF MORAY.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE GORDON, *lately Miniſter there, and now one of the Miniſters of Aberdeen.*

Name.

THE name is very ancient. About 800 years ago, in the charter given by Malcolm the Second to the firſt Biſhop of this early See,—and how long before, no body can ſay, it was called Murthelack or Murthlac, much the ſame as at preſent.

Etymology.—The word is moſt probably of Gaelic origin, derived from ſomething local. Becauſe the church is in a deep though narrow valley, ſome naturally enough think it a corruption of Morlay, Great Hollow. Others again chuſe to bring it from mortis lacus, the lake of death; alluding to a battle which was fought here, and which ſhall afterwards be taken notice of. But this ſeems only a fancy of Buchanan, and is far fetched: More conjectures have been made, and on the whole the etymology is doubtful: Luckily however, like many an obſcurity of the kind, it is of very little importance.

Situation.—Mortlach is encircled by ſix other pariſhes, having Glaſs on the eaſt, Cabrach and Inveraven to the ſouth, Aberlour on the weſt, with Boharm and Botriphny towards the

the north; and ſeveral of theſe, it is not unlikely, are the offspring of the mother church. It is in the county of Banff, in the Commiſſariot of Aberdeen, and in the province of Moray; lying nearly 50 miles to the weſtward, but a little to the north, from the city of Aberdeen, and about 30 ſouth weſt from the town of Banff, the capital of the ſhire. Since the 1706, it has been, by an act of the General Aſſembly, in the preſbytery of Strathbogie and ſynod of Moray: Before that time, it was in the preſbytery of Fordyce and ſynod of Aberdeen: And in a connection with Fordyce, the miniſter of Mortlach, it is ſaid, has ſtill a vote for delegates, from that preſbytery, to elect the profeſſors of Divinity of King's College of Aberdeen, and has alſo ſome truſt and management in certain lands or ſums of money bequeathed to that univerſity.

Extent, &c.—The form of the parish is irregular, and not eaſily deſcribed, ſo as to be underſtood. The beſt idea of it would be obtained by a map from actual ſurvey. Its greateſt length from the head of Glenrinnes to the oppoſite end near the Spey, that is from ſouth to north, is eleven or twelve Engliſh miles; and its greateſt breadth from the banks of Doveron to the foot of Belrinnes, that is from eaſt to weſt, may be about as much. It conſiſts of the lands of Edinglaſſie and Glenmarky, which are Lord Fife's,—of the Lordſhip of Auchindown, Glenfiddich, and the greater part of Glenrinnes, the Duke of Gordon's,—of Dullanſide and a part of the Lordſhip of Balveny, Lord Fife's again,—and of the barony of Kinninvie, which is, and for centuries has been, in the poſſeſſion of a branch of the old family of Balquhan, and of which James Leſlie, Esq; the only reſiding heritor, is the preſent laird, and makes a very good one, being kind to his tenants, an honeſt hoſpitable gentleman, and an excellent farmer.

farmer. Mr Duff of Drumuir is likewiſe a proprietor in Mortlach, having a ſmall piece of ground in it, called Loch-end, near the kirk of Botriphny.

The arable fields, which, by a rough gueſs, may be from 4 to 5 thouſand acres, lie chiefly pretty high along the Fiddich and Dullan, two beautiful rivulets; or on the ſides of rills falling into theſe; or on the more gentle declivities of the mountains. The lands of Glenmarky and Edinglaſſie are remote and disjoined from the reſt of the pariſh. A ſmall ſtream called Marky, running with rapidity down the glen, meets with the Doveron near the houſe of Edinglaſſie, where that river takes a pleaſant winding towards Huntly on the eaſt. There are ſome low or haugh grounds, but not very conſiderable. The extent of meadow graſs, coarſer greens, moor, and hills,—which laſt are in general covered with heath, and but little improveable except by planting, may amount to about twenty times as much as the cultivated field.

Landſcape.—The appearance of the country is very fine. Variegated with hill and dale, wood and water, growing corns and paſture covered with flocks, it looks both beautiful and rich: And even in winter, the trees ſkirting the river banks with their ſnowy foliage, and the lofty mountains all in white, exhibit a diverſity of view abundantly pleaſing and groteſque. Fiddich-ſide is one of the loveliеſt ſtraths to be ſeen in any country. There are ſome landſcapes, eſpecially in Glenfiddich, and about Pittyvaich, Tininver, and Kinninvie, which any one, who has a taſte for ſuch things, will not grudge a day's ride or two to come and ſee. They are a mixture of the ſweet and the wild; and furniſh a great deal of picturesque and very rural ſcenery: If a Thomſon or an Allan Ramſay had lived here, they would have been famous in ſong. One of the moſt remarkable is the Craig of Balveny, with the old

old caſtle there, and the objects which accompany them: What goes by the name of the Giant's Chair, formed by the wearing of the water of Dullan many an age ago, with a pretty little caſcade, called the linen apron, and their ſurrounding drapery, is another.

Soil and Air.—The ſoil is almoſt intirely of the loamy kind, deep enough and fertile: Any exception of its inclining either to ſand or clay is ſcarce worth the mentioning. The air is pure and wholeſome, though it is rather moiſt than dry; and fair weather is ſometimes enjoyed on the farms below, when there are fogs or rain, or perhaps ſnow, on the heights around: But this is no doubt more or leſs the caſe in every highland ſituation; though many a remark muſt one make in an account of this nature, equally applicable to a ſhire or even a larger diſtrict, as to a pariſh.

Health, Spirits, Ages, &c.—The writer of this knows of no diſtemper peculiar to the pariſhioners of Mortlach; nor of any, which can be ſaid, above all others, to be prevailing; and on the authority of a Phyſician, who has long known the country and the people well, he can with the greater confidence ſay, that there are none. Here, as in other places, while many of the ailments of the more affluent proceed from their living in luxury and too freely, to colds and too ſcanty a fare, may thoſe of the lower claſs be frequently traced. There are no inſtances of very extraordinary longevity: But many arrive at the age of 70, ſome to 80, and one now and then, though rarely, to 90 or upwards. The inhabitants may be ſaid, on the whole, to be lively, active, and vigorous; though from the backwardneſs of the ſeaſons for ſeveral years, and other difficulties in the way of their getting a comfortable ſubſiſtence, both the ſpirits and ſtrength of the ordinary farmer

mer and the labouring man are weaker and worſe than they were, it muſt be owned,—and owned with particular regret; for ſuch men, engaged with heart's eaſe in the healthful purſuit of agricultural employments, are the very nerves and permanent riches of a country.

Springs.—Here are ſeveral ſteel or chalybeate ſprings; and ſome of them pretty powerful. One, in particular, near the old caſtle of Auchindown, has been found, on chymical examination, very much to reſemble the Peterhead water, and to be as light as it. They are of uſe in gravelliſh complaints and diſorders of the ſtomach. There is likewiſe, below the houſe of Kinninvie, a ſpring of a petrifying quality, on the limits between Mortlach and Boharm.

Rivers.—Fiddich and Dullan, the two little rivers of this pariſh, have been already mentioned. Dovern is much larger than either of them. But Mortlach can ſcarce claim any property in it; as it only borders, for a few hundred yards, upon one of its extremities. Fiddich riſes in Glenfiddich, towards Strathdon; and Dullan, in Glenrinnes, on the boundaries of Glenlivet. They join a little below the kirk, near the houſe of Tininver, and fall into the Spey about 4 miles below. After their confluence, Fiddich is the name. Their whole run may be about a dozen or fourteen miles each; and there is good angling for ſmall trout, in plenty, on them both.

Lake.—From the public road, leading from this to Botriphny, may be ſeen, on the left, in a den confined by two almoſt perpendicular hills, a ſmall but deep lake, called Lochpark, the ſource of the Iſla, which flows into Doveron in the pariſh of Rothiemay. It is frequented by wild ducks, and is

ſaid to have pikes in it. It belongs to Drummuir. Among the mountains, which encompaſs the pariſh, except an opening to the north, Bellrennis towers conſpicuous. Its height above the ſea, from which it makes a good land mark in ſailing into the Moray-frith, is above 2650 feet; and from its baſe, about 1680.

Quadrupeds.—Beſides the tame and domeſtic quadrupeds, which are every where, here are foxes, weaſels, hares, ſome badgers and otters. In the foreſt of Glenfiddich, there is abundance of red deers—a thouſand and more with a few roes. The farmers round it think them by far too numerous: And yet 40 or 50 of them ſometimes in one flock, with their ſtately carriage and branching horns, on the tops of thoſe ſylvan and romantic hills, make a noble view. The Duke of Gordon has a ſummer reſidence in this glen, as a convenience for fowling, and taking a ſhot at the deer.

Birds.—The ſhelter and accommodation of the woods bring together a great variety of ſinging birds, making an aviary of nature, the moſt innocent and melodious of all, happy and unconfined. The black-bird and thruſh, gold-finch, bull-finch, linnet, and robin, blend their notes, and compoſe a delightful concert. Many other birds there are, but none of them uncommon. The migratory cuckoo, green-plover or lapwing, and the ſwallow, pay their annual viſit, and are always welcome. For the ſportſman, there are moorfowls or grouſe, patridges, and a few ſnipe: The black-cock alſo is to be met with in Glenfiddich, and ſome ptarmagans have been ſeen on Belrennis.

Minerals.—There is a ſufficiency of moorſtone for the purpoſe of building, with ſome ſlate quarries of a dark grey co-

lour

lour and pretty good: And the vaſt quantities of limeſtone here would be an exhauſtleſs treaſure to the huſbandman, if the expence of fuel were not ſo high, as nearly to prohibit the uſe of it. There is the appearance of allum and vitriol, and likewiſe of a lead mine, on the burn of Tullich, which belongs to Kinninvie. In one or two places, there is a laminated rock, which ſome think of the nature of whetſtone or hones: A kind of marble alſo there is, both on Dullan and Fiddich ſide: And, in ſeveral parts, the ſurface of the ground would ſeem to indicate, that there are coals below, any diſcovery of which kind judiciouſly proſecuted would be of the greateſt conſequence both to the comfort of the people, and the improvement of the lands; for they are rather far from the ſea, and many of them too poor, to reap any general benefit from the late repeal of the coal tax, the neareſt port, at the mouth of the Spey, being about 16 miles diſtant from the centre of the pariſh.

Population.—From the liſt of baptiſms, and the recollection of the oldeſt reſidenters, it would appear that Mortlach was more populous 50 or 60 years ago, than it is at this day. In the 1782, on an accurate ſurvey for the information of the Barons of Exchequer, in the view of an approaching ſcarcity of grain, the inhabitants of every age amounted to 2169; of whom there were about 560 under twelve. Ten years afterwards, in the 1792, when again, in like manner, exactly taken by the ſame incumbent for this ſtatiſtical account, the number was found to be 251 fewer than in the 1782, being in whole but 1918—of whom 901 were males and 1017 females, and of whom alſo there were,

Under

Under 10 years of age	—	—	412
From 10 to 20	—	—	398
—— 20 to 30	—	—	304
—— 30 to 40	—	—	251
—— 40 to 50	—	—	230
—— 50 to 60	—	—	145
—— 60 to 70	—	—	113
—— 70 to 80	—	—	53
—— 80 to 90	—	—	11
—— 90 to 100	—	—	1
		In all	1918

These occupied 415 houſes, for every family had its own ſeparate dwelling, making between 4 and 5 at a medium in each, though very unequally divided, ſome as large as 18 or 20, including huſband, wife, chidren, land ſervants, and ſome as ſmall as one. Such ſolitary houſeholders, however, and ſuch numerous families were both but few.

Of the above 415 houſes, farmers might be ſaid to poſſeſs 176; and crofters, or cottagers, the remaining 239: And on the lands of the ſeveral proprietors, the proportions of the people and their habitations were as follows:

On the Duke of Gordon's	927	in	193	houſes.
—— Lord Fife's —	761	in	176	ditto
—— Kinninvie's —	226	in	45	ditto
And on Drummuir's —	4	in	1	houſe.
As before	1918	in	415	houſes.

The ſubjoined ſtatement of births, for 30 years, from the 1ſt of January 1763 to the 31ſt of December 1792 inclu-ſive, arranged in 3 equal periods, is taken from the pariſh regiſter, and is thought tolerably correct. An allowance may be made perhaps for 2 or 3 being omitted every year.

In

In 1763	28	In 1773	39	In 1783	48
1764	29	1774	41	1784	46
1765	46	1775	39	1785	33
1766	46	1776	61	1786	32
1767	45	1777	55	1787	35
1768	39	1778	50	1788	19
1769	55	1779	47	1789	39
1770	47	1780	42	1790	27
1771	38	1781	43	1791	31
1772	48	1782	56	1792	33
Total	421	Total	473	Total	343

So the average for the first 10 years, is $42\frac{1}{10}$, for the second, $47\frac{1}{10}$. Here it may be remarked, that the rule for finding the population, by multiplying the births by 26, seems from this instance to be exceedingly erroneous, for the product of such multiplication would not in the present case be the half of the reality. The decrease in the last 10 years is very observable, and is probably to be ascribed to the calamitous eighty two. The difference betwixt the 1766 and the 1788 in the foregoing table, the baptisms in the one being more than three times as many as those in the other, will also strike one: And for this difference no satisfactory reason can be assigned. It is likely, that, in the latter of those two years, the effects of the 1782, which reduced the country in general to much want and a train of consequent distresses, were at their height; that the greatest number of emigrants had then left the parish, in search of employment and maintenance, among the farmers towards the south or in the manufacturing towns; and that, after that period, they began to return, to find home more comfortable, and to increase. Such is the attachment to one's native soil, that it is seldom deserted but either from necessity or the gratification of an ambitious desire; and as soon as circumstances will permit, or the passion is cured, it is commonly resorted to again. Of

an

an old acquaintance, whether an agreeable friend or a favourite ſcene, it is natural to be fond. Early or eſtabliſhed prepoſſeſſions are with difficulty removed, and it is hard to be put to the trial of eradicating in a diſtant land, the ſweet remembrance of happier days.

In the regiſter of marriages, there is, through ſome negligence or other, a chaſm, which prevents from going farther back, with any preciſion, than the laſt 20 years; viz. from the 1ſt of January 1773 to the 31ſt of December 1792. But this ſhall be done, as under, in two equal periods.

For the firſt 10 *Years.*			*For the ſecond* 10 *years.*		
In 1773	—	12	In 1783	—	11
1774	—	15	1784	—	7
1775	—	16	1785	—	8
1776	—	14	1786	—	17
1777	—	13	1787	—	6
1778	—	21	1788	—	14
1779	—	17	1789	—	17
1780	—	16	1790	—	14
1781	—	24	1791	—	17
1782	—	16	1792	—	15
		164			126

Or $16\frac{2}{5}$ marriages annually. Or $12\frac{3}{5}$ marriages annually.

Each marriage, at a medium, may produce 4 or 5 children. There is no regiſter of deaths or burials kept.

The number of men ſervants is 135, and of women ſervants 102 or thereabout; all for the purpoſes of huſbandry or the care of children. This number may ſeem ſmall. But many of the farmers have their ſons and daughters to aſſiſt them; and ſervants wages have riſen to ſuch a height, that they muſt do with as few as poſſible.

The

The handicraftſmen are,

22 Weavers,	4 Coopers,
11 Maſons,	2 Dyers,
10 Shoemakers,	2 Slaters,
6 Houſe carpenters,	2 Wheel-wrights,
5 Smiths,	1 Plough and cart wright,
5 Tailors,	1 Harneis maker,

in whole 71 : And they have almoſt all of them a few acres along with their houſes. The number of apprentices is about 20. There are likewiſe 4 ſhop-keepers, 2 innkeepers, 3 diſtillers of whiſky, 3 gardeners, 3 meal-millers, 1 flint-miller, and 1 ſaw-miller.

Agriculture.—Agriculture is on the improving hand : But ſhort leaſes are the bane of every improvement. Who in his ſenſes would make a farm more valuable, at his own dear expence, only to induce another to covet and to bid for it ? or if no ſuch offerer ſhould interfere, to tempt the proprietor, who in general is ſufficiently apt to yield to thoſe temptations, to take the advantage and ſqueeze too high a rent from his tenant, grown fond of the poſſeſſion, and thus incautiouſly ſtanding on very unequal ground ? Some of the farmers are giving very good example, by dreſſing their fields with green crops, often in drill, or by a fallow ; laying them down with graſs ſeeds, and introducing a proper rotation : But winter herding is not yet much reliſhed ; and till it be the practice, a man's fields, when in turnips or clover, are but half his own. There are very few complete incloſures, though on ſeveral farms, and particularly Pittyvaich, a good deal is done in the way of dikes and hedges too. The ploughs may be reckoned about 170, ſome of them of 8 or 10 good oxen, others of good horſes, generally 4, but the greater part made up of horſes

horses and oxen mixed together, both of a very indifferent kind. There are 3 or 4 wains or waggons drawn by oxen, and ploughing with a pair of horses is introduced. The grain raised here is oats, bear, or barley and pease: A very small quantity of either rye or wheat, though for the latter, both soil and climate, in various parts of the lands of Balveny and Kinninvie, are well adapted. It is reckoned good and sufficient bear, which weighs about 18 stones the boll Banffshire, which is nearly the Linlithgow measure or standard for Scotland: And 16 pecks or a boll of oats, in a favourable season, will yield about 8 stones of meal. Potatoes also are raised, and found very useful And there is some flax; the experiments of which show, that it might turn out a profitable article, if the management of it, after being pulled, were better understood, and if there were a ready market. It is at present but a bye kind of a crop, and therefore neglected. For want of skill and attention in the grasing, watering, and milling, it is often much injured. Failing in success through bad usage, it unjustly receives the blame; and the farmer is discouraged from extending his attempts.

This parish, which is a plentiful one, after supplying itself, can, in the opinion of some of the most intelligent on this subject, spare, in ordinary years, about a thousand bolls of bear, and five or six hundred of oats and oat meal. The oat seed season is from the beginning of March, or sooner, if the weather will allow, till towards the end of April. And bear is sown from the middle of April, to near the end of May. Barley harvest, generally speaking, begins about the first or second week of September; and the oats may be said to be reaped in the month of October, though sometimes earlier and often later. Early oats, which have been much and beneficially used since the 1782, ripen almost in the same time as the bear. After the winter snows, however, or heavy rains, there

there muſt be the difference of 8 or 10 days, at leaſt, in the time of ſowing, in the different parts of this extenſive country; and even the ſame kind of grain, ſown in the ſame day, will be ready for the hook ſeveral weeks ſooner in Balveny and Kinninvie, than in Glenrinnes and Glenmarky. In this view, Auchindown and Edinglaſſie have an intermediate place, being neither ſo early as the two firſt of thoſe diſtricts, nor ſo late as the other two *.

Cattle and Paſturage.—As to the live ſtock here, there will be about 2000 black cattle, from 300 to 400 horſes for plough, cart, and harrow, 4000 or 5000 ſheep, ſome goats, and a few ſwine about the mills and diſtilleries. The black cattle are of the middle ſized and handſome highland breed; the ox from 5 to 8 guineas, and the cow worth 4 or 5, as the prices happen to go. Many of the farms, having plenty of ſummer graſs, are well ſuited for cattle and corn too. There are alſo ſome very good ſheep-walks, one of the beſt of which is in Glenmarky. The ewes and lambs, which are moſtly now of the black-faced Linton ſort, ſell from 5 l. to 7 l the ſcore; and wedders much about the ſame: But all ſuch calculations muſt be underſtood with a little latitude, and as only there and thereabout. It is impoſſible to make them otherwiſe. The white-faced ſheep, who may be ſtiled the *aborigines* of the country, are wearing out; and yet, tho' ſmaller, they are allowed by many to yield both the ſweeter mutton and the finer wool. Wool ſells from 10 s. to 16 s. per ſtone, according to the quality and demand; but the ſtone conſiſts, it ſeems, of 22 lib. Dutch; one inſtance, among a thouſand, of the great propriety of ſimplifying our

* The average rate of an acre is about 10 s.; and the farms are of many a different ſize, from a 5 l. rent, and even leſs, to 70 l. or 80 l.

weights and meaſures, and making them every where alike, by the ſame general ſtandard. The breeding of horſes is but little practiſed here, though it would probably anſwer very well. As a ſpecimen, ſome have lately been reared to the value of 15 l. and 20 l. Sterling.

Woods.—There are ſeveral plantations of firs in Mortlach, and ſome of them full grown, the property of Lord Fife and Kinninvie; in whole from 300 to 400 acres; and about the like quantity of natural wood, chiefly aller and birch. The oldeſt fir wood is on a piece of riſing ground, planted about 60 or 70 years ago, then arable, and ſo fertile as to be called the *meal-girnel* of Tininver, of which farm it was a part, and ſtill is. It ſeems it has then been the opinion, that a rich mould, if not neceſſary, was at leaſt very favourable for ſuch a purpoſe; though it is ſince known, that firs will proſper in waſtes fit for nothing elſe. Some elms, planes, and oaks, have thriven pretty well. One old oak, in particular, in the Craig of Balveny, though not a very large tree, has a reſpectable appearance. The aſh, too, appears very congenial to the ſoil, and ſhoots up luxuriantly; and, amidſt the trees of native growth, there is a great variety of ſhrubs, many of them flowering. There is, however, an ample ſcope for planting here; and, when it is ſet about, attention will no doubt be paid to the uſeful and beautiful larix. If coal be not diſcovered, timber, as a fuel, will, ere long, in many parts of the pariſh, be a much wanted *ſuccedaneum* for the exhauſted moſſes.

Language.—The language is a dialect of the Scottiſh and Engliſh blended together. There is hardly a word of Earſe now ſpoken in any part of the pariſh: If any where, it is in Glenrinnes, where the inhabitants do alſo moſt retain the look,

look, manners, and genius of the Highland Caledonian, as appears from their dreſs, their vivacity, their ſocial and merry meetings, their warm attachments, their keen reſentments, their activity on occaſions, and indolence on the whole, their intelligence, and their love of their country.

Names of Places.—The names of places, except ſuch as are of late cultivation, are all Gaelic, and commonly deſcriptive either of the ſituation or of ſome noticeable circumſtance. Of this, examples would be needleſs. Let the two rivulets ſuffice. *Fiddich*, or *Fiodhidh*, means woody; and its banks are almoſt covered with trees. *Dullan*, or *Tuilan*, ſignifies rapid; and it tumbles from pebble to pebble almoſt all its courſe.

Rent.—The real rent of this pariſh, which ariſes entirely from lands, is 2000 l. Sterling and upwards. Some neceſſary information on this head having been with-held, from a jealouſy of an improper uſe being made of it, it cannot be exactly ſtated: But the valued rent, as taken in the year 1690, is 3900 l. Scotch.

Farm-houſes.—There is neither town nor village in all the pariſh: The whole is country. The Kirktown of Mortlach is only 2 or 3 houſes on the glebe, or about the church. The farm-houſes are getting a more decent look than they had; and it is to be hoped they will yet mend in this reſpect. They are built for the moſt part of granite ſtone, and thatched with ſtraw. A few, however, are ſlated; and ſeveral gentlemen farmers, ſome of whom have retired from the army, beating their ſwords into plough ſhares, have both their dwelling houſes and offices very ſubſtantial and commodious. It were to be wiſhed that heritors would be ſomewhat

what more liberal in granting an allowance for meliorations of this ſort. Under proper limitations, much advantage would accrue from it, both to their tenants and themſelves too.

Religion.—The pariſhioners are all of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except about 30 or 40 Roman Catholics, perhaps as many Seceders, and 1 Epiſcopalian. Any ill-will or violence of temper, ariſing from a difference in religious ſentiment, is rare.

General Character.—As to the character of the people at large, much may juſtly be ſaid to their praiſe. Like the people of other diſtricts, they are not without their faults; and there are ſome inſtances of great worthleſſneſs, almoſt in every pariſh, to be regretted. It here obviouſly occurs, that a miniſter may be induced, from various motives, to go to the extreme of truth, on the favourable ſide for his flock. His regard for them may blind and miſlead him; or, by condemning them, he may think that he obliquely condemns himſelf; at leaſt, if another did it, he might perhaps be led too readily to think ſo. Few chuſe to depreciate their own importance; few to diminiſh the happy effects of their paſtoral care; and fewer ſtill are inclined to render themſelves ungracious. Thus it may often place a clergyman in a delicate ſituation to be obliged to characterize his pariſhioners; and, though a man of honeſty and reſolution would, in any neceſſary caſe of the kind, immediately determine that he is to ſpeak or write the truth, yet ſuch characters, which in general will be found to be only an indiſcriminate repetition of the ſame and the ſame good qualities, are ſurely to be received as probably partial. But, unleſs there be an egregious deluſion indeed, it can be told with pleaſure and with the ſtricteſt impartiality, of the people of Mortlach, that, with

with few exceptions, they are, and long have been, induſtrious, honeſt, neighbourly, ſober, and humane; peaceable, orderly, and affectionately attached to the free and glorious conſtitution of Britain; decent in obſerving the ordinances of religion, and rationally impreſſed with the great end of them all, as aiding and ſubſervient to piety of heart, uprightneſs of conduct, and purity of life. If ſome of them be ſtill too much given to *frets*, or ſuperſtitious remarks, they are commonly of the harmleſs kind.

Inoculation.—One thing, however, truly to be lamented, is their yet too great diſlike to inoculation for the ſmall-pox, the neglect of which, though it is in uſe rather more than it was, makes this very infectious and virulent diſeaſe frequently mortal; and it is the more difficult to overcome ſo unfortunate a prejudice, as, in a great degree, it has its origin in conſcience, however erroneous and miſinformed. But, it is to be hoped, both for the ſake of their children, and as an expreſſion of their thankfulneſs to God for ſo gracious a diſcovery, that they and others around them, for they are not ſingular, will ſoon ſee this matter in another and juſter light, and chearfully, with a dependence on ſucceſs from Heaven, embrace the benefit of ſo kind a mean afforded by Providence. They are, in general, much diſpoſed to chearfulneſs and contentment, but keenly alive to a ſenſe of injuſtice, rigorous exactions, or any ſpecies of oppreſſion whatever. That they have a martial genius, there is little doubt; but our ordinary wars, it appears, do not call it forth; for they are not fond of a military life; Indeed, the buſineſs of a ſoldier is held rather in low eſtimation among them. They ſeem to conſider it as poor, diſſipated, and ſlaviſh. As to ſize, ſtrength, complexion, abilities, or any other perſonal or mental qualification, there is here nothing remarkable.

Miniſters.

Miniſters.—The writer of this was miniſter of Mortlach, being the fourth ſince the revolution from Auguſt 1781 to December 1793; when he was tranſlated to Aberdeen or St Nicholas; he is married, and has four ſons. Mr George Grant, who was one of the miniſters of old Machar, has ſucceeded him, a batchelor. As to his predeceſſors, Mr Shaw's Hiſtory of the Province of Moray will inform thoſe who have the curioſity to know.

Patron and Stipend.—The Crown is patron. The ſtipend is 63 l. 2s. Sterling, including in that ſum communion element money, one chalder of bear and two chalders of oat meal at 8 ſtones per boll.

Glebe.—There are five or ſix acres of a glebe, with a pretty good orchard and kitchen garden, pleaſantly ſituated on the bank of the Dullan.

Manſe and Church.—The manſe has been a ſpacious one in its day, but is now going to wreck, and muſt ſoon be either rebuilt, or have a thorough repair. The church is indeed venerable, but it is only becauſe it is old; having none of that magnificence, nice architecture or elegant decorations, which we ſo juſtly admire in the more modern cathedrals of after times. Tradition reports that its walls are the very ſame as in the beginning of the eleventh century; and they are ſo ſtrong that it is thought they might ſtand for hundreds of years to come: But the roof, which it got about 80 years ago, is ruinous. The doors and windows, and the ſimplicity of the whole edifice bear witneſs to its age. The windows are long narrow ſlits of ſix feet high, and only 10 or 11 inches wide on the outſide, but ſo much ſloped away as to meaſure at their utmoſt projection ten or twelve feet within. And as its

its ſhape, that of an oblong ſquare of about 90 feet by 28, is a very incommodious one, as a place of public worſhip, both for the ſpeaker and hearers, it will probably be found adviſeable to get over the veneration for its antiquity, and new model it into a more convenient form. The choir on the eaſt end, where the muſic was, and where the altar alſo would be is 27 feet long, and a few feet higher than the reſt of the building. Here the door to the organ loft is ſtill to be ſeen; and on the ridge of the choir, is what they call the Three Biſhops, a pyramid like ſtone of little ſhow, with the ſemblance of a face on each of its ſides, right rudely cut. It has been ſaid that the effigy of Biſhop Byn is to be ſeen in the wall near the *poſtern* door; whereabout it is imagined the tomb of the three firſt biſhops might be found under a vault: But this, as to the effigy, is not the caſe. And for the tomb, there has been no ſearch; nor are there any effigies in the church, except one at full length, over the door which leads from the choir to the Leſlies Aſle or burying ground, with no inſcription, but called a predeceſſor of the Kinninvie family, and celebrated as a man of marvellous gallantry; and two half lengths, Alexander Duff of Keithmore and Helen Grant of Allachie his ſpouſe,* on the ſouth ſide of the choir, with a Latin inſcription; all in freeſtone and baſſo relievo. There is another inſcription in marble†, on a monument of Mr Hugh Innes

* Great grandfather and great grandmother of the preſent Earl of Fife.

† *Copies of the two Inſcriptions.*

Hoc conduntur tumulo, reliquiæ Alexandri Duff de Keithmore et Helenae Grant uxoris ſuæ chariſſimæ. Qui quadringinta annos et ultra, felici et fæcundo connubio juncti, vixerunt. Uterque quidem ingenue natus, ille ex nobiliſſimis Filæ Thanis per

Innes firſt preſbyterian parſon of Mortlach after the Revolution. It is in the wall, beſide the miniſter's ſeat, under which he was buried *. There are likewiſe ſome very ancient looking grave ſtones with Saxon characters, below the ſeats and in the paſſages; but it would take a great deal of trouble to make out what is upon them, and, except to a patient and inquiſitive antiquary, the labour would perhaps be very ill repaid †.

School.—The ſchool is very uſeful; but the ſchoolmaſter, as

per vetuſtam familiam de Craighead, paulo abhinc ſuperſtitem proxime et legitime oriundus; illa ex ſplendida et potenti Granteorum familia, eodem quaque modo originem trahens ortu non obſcuri, ſuis tamen virtutibus illuſtriores; opibus affluxerunt, et liberis ingenue educatis, floruere pie, juſte et ſobrie vixerunt, et ſic in Domino mortem obiere. Illa anno Domini 1694, aetatis ſuæ ſexageſimo.

M. S.

Mri. Hugonis Innes, filii honorabilis viri Johannis Innes de Leichnet, qui, cum, annos triginta quatuor, ſacra in hoc templo peregiſſet, obiit anno Chriſti 1733, natus annos LXVIII. Poſuit hoc monumentum pia ac dilectiſſima conjux Eliz. Abernethie filia Domini de Mayen.

* This gentleman, it is ſaid, was poſſeſſed of a conſiderable ſhare both of bodily ſtrength and perſonal courage; and, in thoſe days, if various anecdotes which are told of him be true, it ſeems he had occaſion for the exerciſe of theſe qualities, in the diſcharge of his clerical functions.

† On the banks of the Dullan, a little below the preſent church or ancient cathedral, appears the foundation of a houſe, overgrown with graſs, which would be walked over with little notice, if one were not told, that here was the biſhop's palace: And not far from thence is a part of the public road, on the oppoſite ſide of the ſame rivulet, leading to the eaſt, called Gordon's croſs; the firſt deſign or uſe of which cannot now with certainty be diſcovered; and ſuppoſitions are endleſs. It might be for ſome religious purpoſe, or it may have been a market place. A round ſtone, which is thought to have been the pedeſtal of the croſs, remains to be ſeen.

as in moſt other places, is poorly rewarded for his trouble: Mr Alexander Thomſon, the preſent one, has been long much eſteemed as a teacher, and is a very deſerving man. The whole emoluments, including ſalary, fees, a donation by Duff of Dipple, with perquiſites as ſeſſion clerk and keeper of the regiſter, amount to but about twenty guineas, for which, beſides the other duties of office, a moſt faithful charge is taken of 30 or 40 ſcholars, at leaſt, through all the year.

Moir's Burſaries.—There are four burſaries at the King's College of Aberdeen for boys educated here, an endowment which is a great encouragement, and has been of important ſervice to many young men in the pariſh, and merits particular notice. It is a privilege indeed, which, for the ſake of the pariſhioners, will no doubt be always moſt ſacredly preſerved. They ariſe from 600 l. Sterling, bequeathed to the above univerſity, between 30 and 40 years ago, by Dr Alexander Moir, an Auchindown man, and for ſome time the pariſh ſchoolmaſter, for the education of four boys annually at the College, from this ſchool, to be recommended by the miniſter. If two or more boys ſhould happen to be ſent at the ſame time, the beſt ſcholar, other things equal, is preferred: But if only one goes, he is entitled by uſe and wont, and writings explanatory of the will, without any competition, to the benefit of this legacy; if found *habile* or fit for being received at a college at all, and if atteſted by the parſon of Mortlach as a proper boy and from this ſchool, for there muſt be one burſary to be given away every year. Dr Moir died in St Croix, where he had made his fortune, which was handſome, as a phyſician.

It is ſaid that Dr Lorimer of London, a native of this pariſh and extremely fond of it, means to give a ſum of money

for another burſe to the boys of this ſchool: And if at the ſame time he could think of the ſchoolmaſter, and leave any thing for him, it might be of much utility, as an inducement to a proper man either to come or to continue in the place.

The Poor.—The number on the poors roll, at an average, is from 50 to 60, and the funds for their relief, being the produce of all the collections in church, except the yearly one for the infirmary of Aberdeen, and the intereſt of 1000 l. Scots, a bequeſt of the ſame Duff of Dipple who left a thouſand merks for the ſchool, do not exceed twenty pounds per annum: So it is only a ſmall aſſiſtance, and not a ſupport which can be derived from them. But even in the 1782 no body periſhed for want; though many were on ſhort allowance: With ſome ſavings of former years, laid out in purchaſing white peaſe, almoſt the only grain then to be got, and the help of ſome meal from government, a ſhift was made to meet the ſucceeding crop. And, moſt luckily for the poor, the prices for ſpinning linen yarn, the chief employment of the women in this part of the country, were then very high.

Price of Proviſions and Rate of Wages.—Proviſions of all kinds are conſiderably dearer than they were about 20 or 30 years ago, ſome articles a third, and others a half, and they are ſtill riſing in their value. The prices at preſent are ſo much ſimilar to thoſe which will be mentioned in the neighbouring pariſhes that it is needleſs to be particular: And the ſame may be ſaid of the rate of wages, whether for artificers, ſervants, or day labourers. Of the three, however, farm ſervants have come to the moſt extravagant pitch. Indeed as to the labouring man at ſixpence a day with his victuals, when married and with a few young children, it is rather ſurpriſing

priſing how he makes out at all, conſidering that he cannot get work all the year round, unleſs the winter ſeaſon be uncommonly mild: Much, eſpecially for clothing, muſt depend on the induſtry and economy of the wife; and after all, on their ſmall and honeſt earnings, one would imagine there is a portion of ſuch a bleſſing, as, in the days of old, there was in the widow's barrel of meal and cruiſe of oil.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—It may be remarked as a peculiar advantage to this pariſh, that it is plentifully ſupplied with timber, both for the purpoſe of building and for all farming utenſils, chiefly within itſelf, and partly from its vicinity to the Spey, which floats down conveniently and at an eaſy expence, the trees of Glenmore and other highland foreſts, on the banks of that ſtately river: And, as to its natural diſadvantages, it has few or none, but ſuch as are almoſt inſeparable from an inland and mountainous ſituation.

Meliorations.—But, undoubtedly, the condition of the people might in many reſpects be made better.

Services.—Services or bondage, as a part of the value of their lands, do ſtill diſgrace the rentals of ſome of the heritors: And though they are required with great indulgence, and not nearly to the extent of the obligation in their tacks, yet they hang over the heads of the tenants, like a depreſſing weight, and ought moſt certainly to be aboliſhed.

Multures.—Multures, or aſtrictions in the way of thirlage to any particular mill, ſhould alſo be reaſonably converted, and done away. The farmer would then go with his victual, wherever he pleaſed, and have nothing to pay but to the operative miller for his trouble and expence. Thus it would become the intereſt of the workman, and it is always ſafeſt to make intereſt and duty go together, to grind the corns well, give

give ready ſervice, and not to overcharge; and it would alſo be the intereſt of the farmer to go to the neareſt mill, if properly conducted.

Leaſes.—Leaſes ought to be longer than they are: The longeſt juſt now is nineteen years.

Roads.—Our bad roads are a great inconvenience and a great loſs; and very bad they are in general, except where it is almoſt impoſſible to make them ſo. They are much neglected, and never will be tolerable, it is to be feared, till either the ſtatute labour be commuted, or turnpikes eſtabliſhed. The people turn out to this work with reluctance, becauſe they do not experience the benefit of it; for, by unſkilful management, the roads are often worſe rather than better of all they do: And the overſeer, loth to impoſe a hardſhip on thoſe who are generally his neighbours, or to offend them, is too eaſy in his duty; and, on the whole, their work is a mere farce. The difficulty of providing fuel is another evil. Cutting, ſetting up, and leading home the peats and turfs occupy the greater part of the ſummer, from the end of the bear ſeed to the beginning of harveſt.

Fuel.—Coals muſt be the remedy for this. Even with our preſent roads, it is allowed, by thoſe who have made the trial, that they are the cheapeſt firing: And if the roads were good, or, which would be better ſtill, if one might indulge the idea of a canal, there would be a moſt comfortable relief in this requiſite article.

Game Laws.—The game laws, though not immediately connected with agriculture or the neceſſaries of life, are loudly complained of, by numbers in this part of the country, as a heavy grievance. It is thought exceeding hard, that a man dare

dare not ſhoot a hare or a patridge, on his own farm or in his own garden, but like a poacher or a thief; and that others may come and do ſo at his very door, to his great mortification, and perhaps to the injury of his crop.

Surely the tax on licences of this kind can be no mighty object for the revenue; and it aids in ſupporting and rivetting this purſe proud and unjuſt procedure. In truth, thoſe arbitrary acts are the vileſt veſtige of feudaliſm and ariſtocracy now remaining in our free and happy land; and it is to be ſuſpected that Britain may one day ſadly mourn their effects: For nothing can have a ſtronger tendency to enervate and enſlave the inhabitants of any country, than a prohibition of the uſe of arms, to which theſe laws eventually do amount. In the time of need, they will neither know how to load nor fire. And, if ever an invaſion ſhould come upon us, we will be able to do but little in our own defence. Inſtead of lounging over the coals in an idle morning, inactive and ſpiritleſs as he now muſt do, when the operations of huſbandry are arreſted, by the froſt and ſnow, the peaſant, ſportſman, and there is no inconſiſtency, eſpecially in the highlands, in one's being both, was wont to range over the fields and hills, with his dog and his gun, in manly exerciſe, which gave health to his body and vigour to his mind. On this ſubject, it is frequently obſerved, and the obſervation ſeems juſt, that there was greater plenty of all ſorts of game before theſe confinements than ſince. And the reaſon is pretty plain. Every body almoſt then had an intereſt in deſtroying hawks and other ravenous animals, and likewiſe in taking care of the eggs and young in the ſpring; whereas now, as they are to have no ſhare either of the pleaſure or profit afterwards, to uſe no ſtronger language, they are entirely careleſs and indifferent about the matter.

Miſcellaneous.—There was an uncommon mortality in this

pariſh

pariſh in 1763, occaſioned by a putrid fever; and, during the rage of the diſeaſe, the froſt was ſo very intenſe, that it was neceſſary to kindle fires in the church-yard to ſoften the ground for digging the graves: In the month of January Mr Walter Sime the miniſter was one of thirteen corps unburied at the ſame time.

Balveny houſe may be admitted here, a large and modern manſion, one of the ſeats of Lord Fife, and built by his father, about a quarter of a mile below the old caſtle, which will be mentioned ſoon. It has a flat roof, and is covered with lead.

It is a pity that this houſe is ſo ill ſet down, and that it has no inhabitants. Lying naturally too low, the architect has contrived to ſink it lower ſtill: And yet, with the aſſociation of life and plenty and chearfulneſs within, it would communicate the ſenſation of a very ſhewy and pleaſant dwelling. but, as it is, it looks ſolitary and forlorn.

Within this century, the mode of living is much altered here, and not to the better: On the whole it is not ſo ſtrengthening. The drinking of whiſky inſtead of good ale is a miſerable change, and ſo likewiſe is the very general uſe of tea. Theſe put together have been exceedingly hurtful both to health and morals. Hence too many become *tipplers*, neglect their buſineſs, and go to ruin: And hence it is thought that conſumptions, ſtomach complaints, and a multiplicity of diſorders, which go under the name of nervous, are more frequent than they were. It will probably be conſidered as a pretty curious fact, that inſtead of two or three tea kettles, about 60 or 70 years ago, perhaps one for the laird, another for the parſon, and a third for the factor, there are here now two hundred at leaſt. But while theſe remarks muſt be made, as impartiality requires, it is agreeable, on the other hand, to obſerve a circumſtance of a very different aſpect. Some time ago, the country hereabout was too much given to the indulgence

gence of a litigious ſpirit, a ſpirit, which, wherever it prevails, will not fail to ſour the temper, waſte the ſubſtance, and corrupt the principles of honeſty: But now a law ſuit is ſcarcely heard of among them; and when any little difference ariſes, they refer it to a friend or two in the way of amicable deciſion. This happy alteration is owing partly to dear bought experience; and partly to the removal of a judicatory at Keith, a village within a few miles of them, where a ſubſtitute of the ſheriff of Banffſhire was wont to hold his meetings and diſpenſe the law, and where ſome pettifogger or other was never wanting to foſter, if not to inſtil, an inclination to a proceſs, as often as he could. A bleſſing when abuſed is converted into a curſe, and now the people find, that though they are farther from the court, they are nearer to juſtice. To Keith, they had frequent occaſions for the poſt office, or the ſhop or the market, and if the ſmalleſt diſputable trifle happened to be rankling them at the time, the coal was blown; and they came home, buoyed up by their counſel, with the aſſurance of ample ſatisfaction and all their expence, though the affair generally ended in their pockets being picked, and their peace and good neighbourhood deſtroyed. A cauſe not worth a groat, on either ſide, has been known to be conteſted for years, through all the rounds of the moſt quibbling and tedious forms, and to coſt each of the contending parties pounds inſtead of the original pence.

Mortlach, though it has not much to ſhow that it is a favourite of the muſes, claims a relation to two Scotch ſongs of no little vogue, Roy's wife in Aldevallach, and Tibby Fowler in the Braes. There are ſome old men yet alive who remember to have ſeen the heroine of the latter. She lived in the braes of Auchindown, and was a plain looking laſs with

with a ſwinging tocher. The Glacks of Ballach, mentioned as the ſcene of the former, is a narrow and remarkable paſs, near the old caſtle of Auchindown, between this pariſh and the Cabrach. Both ballads are ſaid to have been compoſed by diſappointed woers.

Antiquities and Families of Note.—There are two old caſtles, in this pariſh, well worthy of notice. Auchindown, or Auchindune, and Balveny: And when a ſtranger is travelling through this part of Scotland, for curioſity or pleaſure, they deſerve his attention, and willcontribute to his amuſement. Leſs than an hundred years ago, both were inhabited. When they were firſt built, it is not known, or by whom. The caſtle of Auchindune ſtands on a green mount of conical ſhape, over the Fiddich: Its ſituation is bold and commanding. In the central apartment of the building, there is a piece of admirable workmanſhip, in grand and gothic ſtile. It has been in the poſſeſſion of the family of Gordon ſince 1535; and of that name, there have been both Knights and Lords of Auchindune. Before that period, it belonged to the Ogilvies; and, with all its barony, was a part of the Lordſhip of Deſkford. Balveny caſtle is another very magnificent ſtructure. It is placed on a beautiful eminence, on the banks of Fiddich likewiſe, a little below its confluence with the Dullan, and has a variety of charming ſcenery in its view. Tradition calls the oldeſt part of it, for it has evidently been built at different times, a Pictiſh tower. In days of old, it ſucceſſively owned as its maſters the Cummings, the Douglaſſes, and the Stewarts; and, after them, paſſing through ſeveral other families in the 16th and 17th centuries, it became the property of Duff of Bracco about the year 1687, and is now the Earl of Fife's. In the 1446, there was a Lord Balveny of the

the name of Douglas. In the front, and high over its iron and maſſy gate, which ſtill remains, is a motto of the Stewarts, Earls of Athol, deſcriptive of the ſavage valour and unhappy circumſtances of the times. FVRTH. FORTVIN. AND. FIL. THI. FATTRIS. The ſituations of both theſe ancient fortalices are well choſen for defence. They have alſo had their walls, their ditches, and their ramparts, and have been ſtrongly fortified by art. For prints of them, and more minute obſervations, ſee Cordiner's Remarkable Ruins, No. 11. and 12. Such objects, preſenting themſelves to the eye, lead the mind to reflect on the tranſitory nature of human things, and inſpire a contemplative and melancholy pleaſure. Although now they are ruins, they were once the ſcenes of feſtivity and triumph. Many of diſtinguiſhed fame, though chiefly as warriors, have dwelt within them, for warlike feats were almoſt the only accompliſhments, which, in the days of their glory, conferred renown.

There was another old building here, though of inferior note, at Edinglaſſie: One occurrence about it, however, is very memorable. In 1690, the year of the engagement on the haughs of Cromdale, ſome of the highland clans, on their march from Strathſpey, through Mortlach to Strathbogie, and in a connection with the public diſſentions of the day, burnt this houſe: For which, the laird, whoſe name was Gordon, took his opportunity of revenge, in their return a few weeks after, by ſeizing eighteen of them at random, and hanging them all on the trees of his garden *: A ſhocking inſtance of the miſeries of a civil war, and alſo perhaps of the tyrannical and deteſtable power then too often exerci-

* There is a piece of moor-land on the eſtate of Edinglaſſie, called the Highlandmen's *moſſie*, where it is currently ſaid they were all buried.

ſed by chieftains or haughty landholders, over the property, liberty, and lives of their fellow men, for either without any trial at all, or with a mere ſhadow of one, they condemned even to death, by *pot* or gallows. It is well known, that the abuſes of theſe hereditary juriſdictions became ſo intolerable, that they were put an end to, by an act of Parliament, in the reign of George II. and a great and happy reform it was.

On the declining ſide of a hill, bordering upon this pariſh, betwixt Glenrinnes and Glenlivet, the battle of Glenlivet was fought, on the 3d of October 1594. The Earls of Huntley and Argyle were the leaders of the two armies, of whom the latter, according to ſome accounts, brought 10,000 men to the field. Huntly was victorious, though his numbers were, it is ſaid, but as 1 to 10. Many a gallant man was killed. Adam Gordon's cairn, on the ſide of the burn of Altonlachan, is a teſtimony of the place on which he fell. He was Sir Adam of Auchindune, and Huntly's uncle. Argyle was only 19 years of age, of a reſolute and noble ſpirit, and felt ſeverely on the defeat. For the cauſe of this battle, and its more particular circumſtances, ſee the Hiſtory of the Family of Gordon, &c.

Battle of Mortlach.—In the year 1010, Malcolm II. obtained, in this pariſh, that ſignal victory over the Danes, which has ever ſince given the place a ſuperior degree of fame, and makes it reſpected as claſſic ground. Human nature is inclined to regard, with a peculiar reverence, the very ſpot of earth on which was of old tranſacted any remarkable event. Malcolm had been beat the year before by the Danes, and was obliged to leave them in poſſeſſion of the lands of Moray. Anxious, however, to expel ſuch intruders, he now returns upon them from the ſouth, with a powerful force; and the Danes, having intelligence of his motions, came forward

ward to give him battle. The armies get their firſt ſight of one another not far from the church of Mortlach; and a very little to the northward of it they engage. In the beginning of the attack, while puſhing on with too ardent an impetuoſity, Kenneth, Thane of the Iſles; Dunbar, Thane of Laudian; and Graeme, Thane of Strathern, are unfortunately ſlain. On the loſs of three of their generals, the Scotch are ſtruck with a panic, and go into confuſion. Every thing was now in a moſt doubtful ſuſpenſe, and too likely to be deciſive. The King, who has the character of a brave, ſenſible, and pious man, is moſt reluctantly borne along with the retreating croud, till he was oppoſite to the church, then a chapel dedicated to Molocus. The narrowneſs of the paſſage here abated a little the career of the purſuing Danes; the flying army got a minute to breathe; and, from the very ſituation of the ground, were again almoſt neceſſarily collected. On a mere incident, a preſence of mind, or a happy thought, under providence, often depends the fate of war. The monarch was ſeized, perhaps from the very appearance of the conſecrated walls in that aera of ſuperſtition, with a devotional impulſe. He prays, pays his homage to the Virgin Mary, and the tutelary ſaint, according to the manners of the times, makes a vow, is inſpired with a confidence of the aid of Heaven, and addreſſes himſelf, in an animating ſpeech, to his countrymen and fellow ſoldiers. It was the critical moment—his crown, his all was at ſtake, and the Danes were a cruel enemy. He immediately takes the lead; preſſes on the foe; throws Enetus, one of the Daniſh generals, from his horſe, and kills him with his own hand. Without a certain degree of enthuſiaſm, there is nothing great to be done. The charge, without delay, is generally and vigorouſly renewed; and, under the mingled influence of patriotiſm and religion, the Scotch carry every thing before them,

and

and win the day: And a bloody day it is reported to have been, though a glorious one, for Malcolm and his victorious troops. Some think that, for conveying its celebrity to future ages, was erected the ſtately obeliſk ſtill ſtanding at Forres. Certain it is, that ſoon after the Danes finally left the kingdom. There is an appearance, that the ſecond and finiſhing conflict, after rallying, happened a few hundred yards to the ſouth weſt of the Caſtle of Balveny; and probably the more ancient part of that building was then in exiſtence; for a fort is mentioned as near the field of battle. Perhaps it will be expected, that the ſtratagem of ſtopping the courſe of Dullan for a night ſhould be taken notice of here, and the letting it down in a prodigious torrent on the ſurpriſed Danes, thought to have been drawn up on each ſide of this little river, by which their army is ſaid to have been divided, and to have become an eaſier conqueſt. Such a thing may have been, and, from the preſent face of the ground, is not incredible; for the rivulet runs, about an Engliſh mile above the church, in a very contracted channel, between high rocks; and beyond that there is a moſt capacious baſon, for the water to flow quietly back for a long time indeed. But if ſuch a manoeuvre was practiſed at all, it is more likely that it had been on ſome other occaſion than that of the engagement juſt now related. See Fordun, Boece, &c.

As traditional and pretty ſure memorials of this famous battle, are pointed out;

1. The veſtiges of an intrenchment, very diſtinct at this day, on the ſummit of the little Conval-hill, called by the neighbourhood the Daniſh Camp.

2. A number of tumuli, or cairns, ſuppoſed to have been collected over the bodies of the fallen.

3. A huge and irregularly roundiſh ſtone, formerly, it is ſaid, on the grave of Enetus, but now rolled a few ells from its

its ſtation over the corpſe, and made a part of a fence about a field of corn; where it is denominated the Aquavitae Stone. To account for this appellation, and to prevent antiquarians from puzzling their brains with dark and learned hypotheſes in time to come, it may not be improper to tell, that the men, whoſe brawny ſtrength removed this venerable tenant, finding it rather a hard piece of work, got, as a ſolace for their toil, a pint of whiſky, out of which, immediately, around the ſtone, they took a hearty dram. Every body knows, that, in Scotland, whiſky and aquavitae are the ſame.

4. A ſquare bit of ground, almoſt covered with whins, into which multitudes of the dead were tumbled. This is very near the north-weſt corner of the fir-park of Tommamuid, and about 120 yards or ſo from the above ſtone, almoſt directly ſouth.

5. The length of Malcolm's ſpear added to the church, at the weſt end, in performance of a part of his vow. It has been the ſpear of a Goliah, 23 or 24 feet long.

6. Three holes, exactly of the ſhape of ſkulls, in this additional and votive part of the houſe, yet to be ſeen; where the heads of three Danes of diſtinction had, with too barbarous a triumph, been originally built in the wall. At whatever time, or in whatever way, three ſkulls may have firſt been put there, there they ſurely were; and, not longer than about 30 years ago, was the laſt of them picked out, and toſſed about by the ſchool boys.

7. A ſtanding ſtone on the glebe, having on two of its oppoſite ſides ſome rude and unintelligible ſculpture.

Human bones, broken ſabres, and other military armour, have been at different times accidentally diſcovered in this part of the country: And in plowing the glebe, about 40 or 50 years ago, there was a chain of gold turned up, which looked like an ornament for the neck of one of the chiefs.

Biſhopric

Bishopric of Mortlach.—It is clear, from the evidence of history, that on this occasion, by the pious gratitude of Malcolm, and in fulfilment of a sacred engagement, Mortlach was exalted to Episcopal honours. One Beyn, or Bean, was, by Pope Benedict, made its first bishop who, about 30 years after, died, and was buried here. Donortius was the second, and next to him came Cormac. These two, between them, enjoyed their preferment more than 80 years, and, on the death of the latter, succeeded Bishop Nectan, the fourth and last of Mortlach; for in his fourteenth year, he was translated by King David I. to Aberdeen, which soon got the name, and became the seat of the diocese. And thus Mortlach, from a dignified bishopric, sunk into an humble parsonage. The see was at Mortlach 129 years, from 1010 to 1139*. Bishop Ramsay of Aberdeen, in the year 1246, appointed 13 prebendaries, of whom the 7th in order was the parson of Mortlach.

* Its jurisdiction and revenues were but small, comprehending no more than the church of Mortlach, the church of Cloveth, and the church of Dulmeth with all their lands: But, in regard to precedence, it was the second in Scotland, that of St Andrews being the only one before it, which extended over all the kingdom, and whose bishop was then designed *Episcopus Scotiae*, or *Episcopus Scotorum*.

NUM-

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF FORRES.

(COUNTY OF BANFF.—PRESBYTERY OF FORRES.—SYNOD OF MORAY.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN M'DONNEL, *Miniſter.*

Situation and Name.

FORRES, a royal burgh, ſituated upon the Moray Frith, gives name to this pariſh. It lies in the ſynod of Moray, and is the ſeat of the preſbytery of Forres. Forres, as antiently written, is of Celtic origin, ſignifying its ſituation upon the ſea.

Extent and Boundaries.—The form of this pariſh is irregular, approaching neareſt to a triangle, with a ſtripe of mooriſh and hill ground, about three miles in length, ſtretching from one corner. It is four miles in length, and about two and one half in breadth; bounded upon the north by the bay of Findhorn, a large baſon of ſhallow water, formed by the meeting of the tide and the river Findhorn; on the north-eaſt by the pariſh of Kinlop; on the eaſt and ſouth by the pariſh of Rafford. On the ſouth-weſt and north north-weſt, by the river Findhorn, which divides it from the united pariſhes of Dyke and Moy.

The

The ſouth and ſouth-eaſt parts of this pariſh are hilly, covered with ſhort heath and furze. The reſt is one continued rich arable well cultivated field.

Climate and Proſpect.—Forres, in point of ſituation and climate, is inferior to no part of Scotland. The air is dry, ſerene, and healthy. The town, being built upon a riſing ground, about a mile from the Bay of Findhorn, commands an extenſive proſpect of a rich and well cultivated country, interſperſed with the ſeats and improvements of many of the neighbouring proprietors. Leſs rain falls here than in moſt other parts of the kingdom, the ſhowers being attracted by the Moray Frith on the north, and on the ſouth, by the hills which divide Moray from Strathſpey.

Church and Stipend.—The value of the living is 98 bolls of bear, 20 bolls of meal, and 490 pounds Scots, a glebe of 4 acres, and manſe and office houſes. The Earl of Moray is undoubted patron. The church was built in 1745. Its dimenſions, within walls, are 72 by 36 feet; and it contains 1800 people.

The heritors of the pariſh are the Earl of Moray, Sir James Grant of Grant, Robert Urquhart of Bandſyards, Alexander Penroſe Cumming of Altyre, John Gordon of Gruſhop, Dunbar of Grarye, Leſlie of Balnegeith, Urquhart of Tannachy, and Mr Strahan of Druimduan, with ſome ſmall proprietors, holding of the town of Forres.

All theſe, except Lord Moray and Sir James Grant, have their reſidences within the pariſh.

Population.—From an actual ſurvey lately made, the number of inhabitants was found to be 2987; of which number there are,

Males

Burdsyards

Males	1341	2398 reſide in the town
Females	1646	589 reſide in the country.
	2987	2987

The number of inhabitants in 1774, appears, from actual ſurveys, to have been 2793, ſo that there is now an increaſe of population of 194.

The number of births, during a period of 11 years, from 1779 to 1789 incluſive, is 895; 453 males, and 442 females, being in the proportion nearly of 41 to 40, and the average $81\frac{4}{11}$.

Upon an average of the laſt 11 years, the number of marriages of perſons reſiding in the pariſh is 15 annually.

There are many perſons now living in the pariſh of 80, but none whoſe age exceeds 92.

There are 18 farmers reſiding in town, and 43 in the country, many of whom, eſpecially thoſe in town, hold very ſmall poſſeſſions.

56 Shoemakers	4 of whom reſide in the country.
33 Weavers	8 ditto.
25 Taylors	2 ditto.
6 Blackſmiths	
58 Journeymen and apprentices.	

Trade.—There are in Forres 60 merchants and ſhopkeepers. Theſe were formerly principally ſupported by travelling and vending their goods in all the villages and market towns to the weſt and north, particularly Sutherland, Caithneſs, and Roſs, and as far as Orkney. But this intercourſe is in a great meaſure now rendered unneceſſary, as in all theſe countries they have got ſtationary ſhopkeepers, who

can retail their goods nearly upon as low terms as the merchants of Forres.

Manners.—About 50 years ago there were only 3 tea-kettles in Forres; at present there are not less than 300. The blue bonnets of Forres were then famous for good credit, and at that period there were only 6 people with hats in the town; now above 400. Happy for our country did we keep pace in virtuous improvement, with the extravagant refinement adopted in dress and manners. About 30 years ago, 30 s. would have purchased a complete holiday suit of clothing for a labouring servant; according to the present mode of dress, it will require at least 5 l. to equip him.

Rate of Wages.—About the year 1750, a servant engaged for harvest had 4 d. a day with his victuals; now 10 d. with two meals. For the whole time of harvest then, he had 10s. now 25 s. A journeyman mason had then 1 merk Scotch, without victuals, now 20 d. A labouring man servant had, at the above period, 15 s. 4 d.; now from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. 10 s. in the half year. A woman servant then had 8 s. and 4 d. and some 10 s. half yearly; now from 18 s. to 21 s.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are no sectaries in Forres, except a few Seceders. They are not upon the increase.

Productions of this Parish.—The soil and climate of this parish will produce any crops that can be raised in any part of Scotland. Harvest begins the first week of August, and towards the end of that month, even during the late rainy seasons, it becomes general. It is no uncommon thing, in this

this neighbourhood, to cut down barley in 12 or 13 weeks after the time of ſowing it.

Poors Funds.—About 125 perſons receive charity from the church and poors funds, many of whom are heads of families. Amongſt theſe there is annually divided about 40 l. ariſing chiefly from the collections made at the church doors. But the poors funds have been lately conſiderably augmented by a donation left by the Rev. Mr Alexander Watt, late miniſter of this pariſh, of about 200 l. Beſides the above ſums, there is 15 l. annually divided amongſt the poor of Forres, being the intereſt of money left under the direction of the Town Council.

Price of Proviſions.—About the year 1750, beef and mutton ſold in the markets at 1 d. per lib. and fiſh for 1 d. per dozen; oat meal for 8 s. per boll of 9 ſtone; wheat for 11 s. and barley for 10 s. Our market is plentifully ſupplied with every article of proviſion, beef and mutton at 3 d.; fiſh, at an average, at 6 d. the dozen of haddocks, and ſalmon at 4 d. the lib.; pork, from 3 d. to 4 d.; lamb and veal from 4 d. to 4½ d.; butter, from 7½ d. to 9 d. per lib.; and cheeſe 4 s. to 4 s. 6 d. per ſtone. The lib. of butter 24 oz. and 16 lib. to the ſtone.

Schools.—In the town of Forres there is a grammar ſchool, with a ſalary of 20 l.; and, from the abilities and attention of the preſent teacher, it has acquired a great character. Latin, Greek, French, and the various branches of the mathematics, are taught with great ſucceſs; and a young gentleman may have board and education for 20 l. *per annum*. Beſides the ſalaries given to the public teachers, the Magiſtrates give ſome ſmall donations to thoſe who keep private ſchools,

ſchools, to encourage them in their attention to their charge. There is likewiſe an Engliſh ſchool, ſeparate from the grammar ſchool; the teacher has a ſalary of 15 l. *per annum*, and every encouragement from the magiſtrates that can render his ſituation comfortable. The price of education in this town, as in every other part of Scotland, is very low. The learned languages are taught for 2 s. 6 d. per quarter; Engliſh for 1 s. 6 d. per ditto.

There is likewiſe a boarding-ſchool for young ladies, where the various branches of needle work, muſic, and other parts of female education, are taught with great ſucceſs. The miſtreſs has a ſalary of 16 l. *per annum* from the town; and a young lady may have every accommodation for 15 l. a year. Dues per quarter, muſic, 10 s. 6 d.; plain work, 2 s. 6 d.; tambour, 5 s.; gum-flowers, a guinea. Particular attention is paid to the morals of youth in theſe different ſeminaries of learning; and from the abilities of the preſent teachers, and attention paid to the ſchools by the Magiſtrates, and the healthy ſituation of the town of Forres, there is not, perhaps, a more eligible place for the education of youth any where.

Rivers and Fiſh.—In this pariſh there are no freſh water lakes, and the river Findhorn and the burn of Forres are the only ſtreams in the pariſh. The fiſh found in the river and bay of Findhorn, are ſalmon, trout, eels, flounders, and abundance of haddocks are taken in the Frith, which ſupplies the town of Forres and the neighbourhood. The quantity of ſalmon exported from Forres, upon an average of 10 years, from 1773 to 1783, was about 300 barrels annually, beſides the home conſumpt, which is not very conſiderable. Since the 1783, the quantity of ſalmon taken is conſiderably leſs; but laſt year, 1792, the fiſhing of the Findhorn has been

been much more productive than for ſeveral years preceding. The price of ſalmon is 4 d. and for trout 5 d. per lib.

Navigation, &c.—The river Findhorn is navigable for boats no farther than the tide flows. But did the increaſe of commerce and manufactures require it, there is no place where a canal might be more eaſily made. From Forres to the mouth of the Bay of Findhorn, which is the ſea-port of Forres, the diſtance does not exceed 3 miles, and the tide flows in the baſon more than half that diſtance; and the level of the ground, at the foot of the eminence on which the town of Forres ſtands, does not exceed the level of half tide by 14 feet; and that depth of a canal would carry boats and lighters at high water to the town; and ſuch a canal would have the advantage of the burn of Forres to keep it clear. The baſon already mentioned is a triangular piece of low ground, partly of that kind of ſtiff clay ſoil, called carſe ground; and partly of fine compact ſand, mixed with light particles of earth waſhed down by the floods. It is all dry at low water, except the channel of the river, and a little ſpace at the inlet at high-water. Its circumference will be at leaſt 7 miles, and contains more than 2 ſquare miles of ground, all of which might be recovered from the ſea, except what is neceſſary for a channel to the freſh water ſtreams. A bar of ſand, which ſtretches acroſs the mouth of the river, prevents any ſurge from entering the baſon; ſo that an embankment would have no weight of water to ſuſtain, but the ſmall fetch of the lake itſelf.

Limeſtone, &c.—In all this pariſh there is only one quarry of limeſtone, upon the eſtate of Mr Cuming of Altyre. It is not uſed in any great quantities. There is only one ſmall patch of coarſe moor-ſtone; and no detached ſtones are found

found of any conſiderable ſize, either above or below ground.

Inundations.—The lower part of this pariſh is very much ſubject to be flooded by the rivers. In September 1768, and Auguſt 1782, there were a remarkable inundation. The river Findhorn roſe to ſuch a height, that more than a mile in breadth of the fineſt lands was laid under water, and the crops either carried away or deſtroyed.

Manufactures.—The inhabitants in general are diſpoſed to induſtry. No manufactures of public importance are carried on in or about Forres, except what ſupplies the town and its vicinity. The ſpinning of linen yarn has for 20 years back brought a conſiderable ſupply of money to this country. The ſpinning of yarn, and manufacturing ſuch of it as may be neceſſary for domeſtic purpoſes, has employed a conſiderable number of women, whoſe earnings have been of great advantage to themſelves, and beneficial to the public. The merchants are in the uſe of buying the yarn, and ſending it to Glaſgow, where there is generally a ready ſale, unleſs the market is overſtocked with Iriſh yarn, which, only on account of its cheapneſs, at certain times is preferred. But ſince the year 1784, the yarn trade has been gradually declining, owing to the increaſe of machines for ſpinning cotton in the ſouth country, and the great quantities of yarn from Ireland imported into Glaſgow, by which the price of yarn in this country has been greatly reduced. Many of thoſe formerly employed in ſpinning yarn for ſale have of late taken to the ſpinning of Dutch flax for the manufacturing companies at Aberdeen and Inverneſs.

A merchant of this town, in the year 1784, ſent to Glaſgow 23,290 ſpindles of yarn, which was collected near this

place,

place. The other dealers in that article ſent at leaſt 47,000 ſpindles, which, at the rate of 2 s. per ſpindle for ſpinners, produced 7029 l. Sterling. The Truſtees for Manufactures and Improvements have given ſome encouragement for the erecting of lint-mills in this neighbourhood, and theſe promiſe to be of great utility; and while they provide a proper and expeditious mode of manufacturing the flax, they will at the ſame time encourage the raiſing of that article in the country. Too much attention cannot be paid to this uſeful branch of trade, which employs thoſe, and makes them uſeful to ſociety, who would otherwiſe be a burden to the ſtate.

Rent.—In the neighbourhood of the town, land let ſo high as 50 s. and ſome of the fields cloſe to the town at 3 l. an acre. Theſe are farmed by horſe-hirers, who lay them down in graſs; and, by the high wages they get for letting out their horſes, are enabled to pay this enormous price for the land.

Plantations.—To the ſouth of this town, upon a riſing ground, commanding a view of Forres and Findhorn, and the Moray Frith, ſtands the houſe of Burdſyards, reckoned one of the beſt ſituations which any country can afford. Upon this eſtate are very extenſive plantations of firs, in a very flouriſhing condition, planted by the preſent proprietors and others, and which now yield a profit of 100 l. a year. There are likewiſe conſiderable plantations of firs upon the eſtate of Cuthall, belonging to Alexander Penroſe Cuming of Altyre, ſituated to the ſouth-weſt of the town, about 3 miles upon the road leading from Forres to Yverttown.

NUM-

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF KENMORE.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD).

By the Rev. Mr COLIN MACVEAN, *Miniſter.*

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THE name is evidently derived from the Gaelic *Ceanmor*, (pronounced Kenmore) in that language ſignifying *great head;* and is probably ſo called from a beautiful head-land projecting into the eaſt end of Loch Tay, and on which the village and church of Kenmore are built. This pariſh is ſituated in that diviſion of Perthſhire called Breadalbane, in the preſbytery of Dunkeld, and ſynod of Perth and Stirling. On the eaſt it is bounded, about two miles below the village of Kenmore, with the pariſhes of Dull and Weem; on the weſt, by a part of the pariſhes of Killin and Weem; on the ſouth and north, by thoſe hills which riſe to a conſiderable height from the ſides of the loch, and bordering on the ſouth with the pariſhes of Comrie and Monivaird, &c. and on the north with the pariſhes of Fortingale and Weem. This pariſh is about 7 miles in breadth, and extends to the weſt, from the village of Kenmore, on both ſides of Loch Tay, about 8 miles, without any other pariſh intervening. It is then interſected, for a very ſhort ſpace, with Crannich, and part of Ardernaig, in the pariſhes of

of Weem and Killin; after which it continues on both ſides to the weſt end of the loch, on the north ſide; and nearly as far on the ſouth. In a north-weſt direction from Killin, which is ſituated at the weſt end of Loch Tay, there is a beautiful and ſequeſtred vale, called Glenlochay, a conſiderable part of which is in the pariſh of Kenmore, although ſome places of it are no leſs than 28 miles from the pariſh church. Such of the inhabitants of this glen, and other parts of the pariſh, as are adjacent to Killin, attend divine ſervice there. They have ſeats in the church of Killin; and when any repairs are wanted, either for church or manſe, they perform carriages, &c. as were they pariſhioners. Their elders have a ſeat in the kirk-ſeſſion, and their poor are chiefly ſupplied from the funds at Killin. It does not, however, appear, that their lands were formerly annexed, *quoad ſacra*, to that pariſh. To Kenmore, alſo, belongs a ſmall part of Glenquaich, which lies to the ſouth of the pariſh, and is ſeparated from it by a hill 5 miles over. The inhabitants of this glen depend for church privileges on the miſſion of Amulree.

Lakes and Rivers.—The only lake worth mentioning is *Loch Tay*, which is 15 miles in length, and, in general, a mile in breadth, but two miles where broadeſt. It is ſaid to be in many places 100 fathoms deep. This lake, which ſeldom or never freezes, abounds with ſalmon, pike, perch, eels, charr, and other trouts. The ſalmon are of an excellent quality, and are found clean at all ſeaſons. Lord Breadalbane has the privilege of fiſhing them in the loch the whole year *. The principal river is the Tay, which iſſues

* The water of Loch Tay ſuffers, at times, violent and uncommon agitations, occaſioned, it is believed, by a ſubterraneous

from the loch on the north ſide of the village of Kenmore, and, after a courſe of 60 or 70 miles, diſcharges itſelf into the ſea, below Dundee. It is navigable as far up as Perth.

Roads

neous impulſe. The following copy of a letter, written by Mr Fleming, contains a particular deſcription of a phenomenon of this kind, which happened in the year 1784.

Manſe of Kenmore, Nov. 4. 1784.

"I did not return from the excurſion on which I was when I had the pleaſure to ſee you at Dundee, till laſt Tueſday night. On my arrival I found your letter reſpecting the phenomenon that lately happened in this neighbourhood. Although ill qualified to give you ſatisfaction upon this ſubject, I ſhall, however, comply with your deſire, and give you the moſt accurate account of that phenomenon which I have been able to obtain.

"On Sunday the 12th September, about 9 o'clock in the morning, an unuſual agitation was obſerved in Loch Tay, near the village of Kenmore. That village ſtands at the eaſt end of the lake, having the river, which there iſſues from the lake, on the north ſide, and a bay about 460 yards in length, and 200 yards in breadth, on the ſouth. The greater part of this bay is very ſhallow, being generally no more than 2 or 3 feet deep; but before it joins the body of the lake, it becomes ſuddenly very deep. At the extremity of this bay, the water was obſerved to retire about 5 yards within its ordinary boundary, and in 4 or 5 minutes to flow out again. In this manner it ebbed and flowed ſucceſſively 3 or 4 times during the ſpace of a quarter of an hour, when all at once the water ruſhed from the eaſt and weſt in oppoſite currents, towards a lake acroſs the bay, and about the edge of the deep, roſe in the form of a great wave, to the height of 5 feet above the ordinary level, leaving the bottom of the bay dry, to the diſtance of between 90 and 100 yards from its natural boundary. When the oppoſite currents met, they made a claſhing noiſe, and foamed; and the ſtronger impulſe being from the eaſt, the wave, after riſing to its greateſt height, rolled weſtward, but ſlowly diminiſhing as it went, for the ſpace of 5 minutes, when it wholly diſappeared. As the wave ſubſided, the water flowed back with ſome force, and exceeded its original boundary 4 or 5 yards; then it ebbed again about 10 yards, and again returned, and continued to ebb

Roads and Bridges.—On both ſides of Loch Tay are good roads from Kenmore to Killin. The one on the north ſide was

ebb and flow in this manner for the ſpace of two hours, the ebbings ſucceeding each other at the diſtance of about 7 minutes, and gradually leſſening, till the water ſettled into its ordinary level.

" At the ſame time that the undulation was obſerved in the bay on the ſouth ſide of the village, the river on the north was ſeen to run back; the weeds at the bottom, which before pointed with the ſtream, received a contrary direction; and its channel was left dry about 12 feet from either edge. Under the bridge, (which is 60 or 70 yards from the lake), the current failed, and the bed of the river appeared where there had been 18 inches of water.

" During the whole time that this phenomenon was obſerved, the weather was calm. It could barely be perceived, that the direction of the clouds was from N. E. The barometer (as far as I can recollect) ſtood the whole of that and the preceding day, about 29$\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

" On the next, and the 4 ſucceeding days, an ebbing and flowing was obſerved, nearly about the ſame time, and for the ſame length of time, but not at all in the ſame degree as on the firſt day. A ſimilar agitation was remarked at intervals, ſome days in the morning, other days in the afternoon, till the 15th of October, ſince which time no ſuch thing has been obſerved.

" I have not heard (although I have made particular inquiry) that any motion of the earth was felt in this neighbourhood, or that the agitation of the water was obſerved any where but about the village of Kenmore.

" I hope the above account will furniſh an anſwer to moſt of the queſtions contained in your letter. If there be any other circumſtance, about which you wiſh to have farther information, it will give me pleaſure to be able to communicate it.

" I am, &c.

(Signed) " THO. FLEMING.

" *N. B.* The village of Kenmore is ſituated nearly in the parallel of 56 deg. 38 ſec. and about 1 degree weſt of the meridian of Edinburgh. Loch Tay extends from thence ſomewhat more than 15 miles W. S. W. Its medium breadth is not much leſs than a mile, and its depth muſt be very conſiderable,

was made a conſiderable time ago; that on the ſouth ſide was made by the preſent Earl of Breadalbane, ſoon after he ſucceeded to the eſtate, and ſolely at his own expence. Theſe roads have hitherto been kept in repair by the ſtatute labour; but a propoſal is now made to convert it into money. A more pleaſant ride than that between Kenmore and Killin, on either ſide of the loch, is very ſeldom to be met with. Each of theſe villages is furniſhed with a good inn. A handſome bridge, of five arches, is built over the Tay at Kenmore; and a great number of ſmall ones are thrown over the torrents which deſcend from the mountains into the loch, on both ſides. Of theſe mountains, Ben-Lawers, on the weſt ſide, is by far the higheſt, being 4015 feet above the level of the ſea, and is ſaid to be the ſecond higheſt mountain in Scotland. While I write this, being the 16th of May 1795, it is covered with new laid ſnow, a conſiderable way down its ſides. It abounds with many rare plants, and is frequented by a great variety of quadrupeds and fowls *.

State

able, if one may judge from the height of the adjacent mountains."

On the 13th July 1794, Loch Tay experienced agitations ſimilar to what are deſcribed above, although not ſo violent, nor of ſo long continuance.

* Many rare alpine plants may be claſſed amongſt the natural productions of this mountain, as the Aſtragalus *uralenſis*; Arenaria *ſaxatilis*; Juncus *jaquini*; Acroſticum *ilvenſe*; Ceraſtium *alpinum*; (Linn.) Erigeron *alpinum*; Gentiana *nivalis*; Carex *rigida*; Lichen *croceus*; L. *juſco luteus*; Draba *ſtellata*; Veronica *ſaxatilis*; Phleum *alpinum*; Cherleria *ſedoides*, &c. Some of theſe plants have not, it is believed, been diſcovered on Ben-lomond, or, perhaps, any other mountain in the iſland; and are omitted by Dr Lightfoot, and other writers on Britiſh plants.

State of the Church and School.—The value of the living, excluſive of the glebe and a ſmall farm annexed to it, which the incumbent enjoys by the beneficence of the Breadalbane family, for the rent of 5 s. yearly, is about 75 l. The church and manſe were rebuilt in the handſomeſt manner about 35 years ago, and are ſtill in good repair. The church is exceedingly neat and plain; it is built in form of a croſs, and is ornamented with a fine tower ſteeple. The manſe is large, handſome, and commodious. It is ſituated on a riſing ground on the ſouth ſide of the loch, and commands a charming proſpect. Beneath is the village, church, bridge, loch, and the diſcharge of the river out of it. Oppoſite is Drummond hill, riſing almoſt perpendicular, and reaching to the height of about 500 feet above the level of the loch. This beautiful hill begins two miles below Kenmore, and extends weſtward 5 miles. It is covered, from one end to the other, with oaks, pines, larches, &c. and forms a moſt delightful and pictureſque object. The proſpect to the eaſt of the manſe comprehends a conſiderable part of Lord Breadalbane's pleaſure ground, and plantings about Taymouth; and is terminated by diſtant hills. To the weſt is a view of the loch for about 5 miles, where it makes a bend to the ſouth. Its ſides exhibit a pleaſing variety of woods and corn fields. The view beyond this is terminated by the lofty hill of Lawers, already mentioned.

Having made mention of Taymouth, it may perhaps be expected that I ſhould give a particular account of that place. This, however, is a taſk to which I confeſs myſelf unequal.

Accurate

plants. A non-deſcript graſs, probably of the Poa genus, is found growing near the foot of the mountain. It is a beautiful graſs, and grows to the height of about 4 feet. This, with ſome of the above mentioned plants, was lately diſcovered by Mr John Mackay, an expert botaniſt, now in Edinburgh.

Accurate and beautiful deſcriptions of this place have been given to the public, by Mr Pennant and others, to which deſcriptions the reader is referred.

Beſides the pariſh church, there is a chapel at Lawers, on the north ſide of Loch Tay, where the miniſters of Kenmore and Weem preach occaſionally. Here the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge eſtabliſhed, in the year 1790, a miſſion, on a fund mortified by the late Lady Glenorchy, of which they have the management. Out of this fund one half of the miſſionary's ſalary is paid; the hearers pay the other. Lord Breadalbane gives a manſe and glebe. In this miſſion the preſent miniſter of Kenmore officiated, for about three years previous to his ſettlement there, which was on the 13th March 1794. In this pariſh are no ſectaries of any denomination whatever.

Schools.—The parochial ſchool, which is kept in the village of Kenmore, is generally frequented by about 100 ſcholars, except in ſummer and autumn, when many of the youth, being neceſſarily engaged in huſbandry buſineſs, cannot attend their education. The Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge in Scotland maintains four ſchools within the bounds of the pariſh. Private ſchools are alſo occaſionally kept in different parts of the pariſh, and their teachers ſupported ſolely by the ſcholars parents. At preſent there are no fewer than four of theſe private ſchools, but the number of ſcholars is not great.

State of the Poor.—The number of poor upon the pariſh roll amounts to 40, excluſive of the poor of thoſe parts of the pariſh that are connected with Killin and Amulree. The funds for their maintenance in this, as well as in all the neighbouring pariſhes, ariſe chiefly from weekly collections in

in the church, which, in this parish, *communibus annis*, amount to 32 l. Besides this, they have 5 l. yearly, being the interest of 100 l. which was mortified, about 60 years ago, for their behoof, by a near relation of the noble family of Breadalbane. They have also another small sum at interest, which the kirk-session have been enabled, in times of plenty, to save out of the funds. The noble proprietors already mentioned, have, besides, been long in the practice of distributing yearly, in the district of Breadalbane, from between 90 to 100 bolls of meal, to widows and orphans, and to aged and infirm persons in indigent circumstances, though not on the poor-roll. This meal has lately been converted into money, at 16 s. the boll.

Population.—This parish seems to have undergone no considerable change, with respect to population, for some time past. The districts along the sides of Loch Tay have, from time immemorial, been remarkably populous. In these places, the tenants, in general, have but very small possessions, several of them being crowded together in the same farm. And although it is certain that the noble proprietor might increase his rent-roll considerably, by enlarging the possessions and lessening the number of tenants, yet, knowing their attachment to their country, he allows them to remain in the abodes of their forefathers. The only villages in the parish are Kenmore and Stronfernan, the latter of which was built a few years ago, and consists of about 24 families.

It appears, by the return made to Dr Webster in the year 1755, that the population of the parish was then 3067. By a survey taken in 1794-5, the population amounts to 3463. Of these 1520 are males, and 1943 are females. The average number of marriages yearly is 24, and of births 60.

The

The number of burials is uncertain, as there are no leſs than 6 burying places in the pariſh; and no regiſter of burials kept.

In the pariſh are 63 weavers, 38 taylors, 36 wrights, 26 ſhoemakers, 20 flaxdreſſers, 10 ſmiths, 9 maſons, 8 coopers, 4 hoſiers, and 1 dyer. In the above liſt apprentices and journeymen are included.

Agriculture and Huſbandry.—The richeſt and beſt cultivated land in this country extends nearly a mile in width on both ſides of Loch Tay. The ſoil, which is of a loamy texture, has, in the courſe of time, been carried down by the rains from the higher grounds; and is enriched with the ſpoils of decayed animals and vegetables. The hilly land chiefly conſiſts of a light moſſy kind of ſoil, which naturally is not unfriendly to vegetation. Heath, bent, and coarſe graſſes, are the general product of the hills and muirs; but the vallies and water carried ſoils in the glens, &c. produce good crops of excellent graſſes. The grains chiefly cultivated are oats, bear or big (four-rowed barley), beans, peaſe, potatoes, and lint. The average return of oats is 3 or 4, and of barley 4 or 5. The return of lint is commonly a ſtone of flax from the *lippie*. Potatoes in general make a good return. The old ſyſtem of rotation, namely, the infield land with oats and bear alternately, and the outfield with oats and ley, is in general continued. Each farm is commonly ſubdivided among ſeveral tenants, a practice which does not merit the higheſt approbation *. Theſe tenants have each a ſeparate leaſe or verbal bargain, the duration of which is moſtly from year to year, at the will of the proprietor. Under

* *See* Marſhall's Survey of the Central Highlands, p. 32.

der ſuch a ſyſtem, agriculture cannot be expected to make great progreſs.

Horſes, Cows, and Sheep.—The horſes, with which this and the neighbouring pariſhes are ſtocked, are of the Highland breed, and of about 12 or 13 hands high. They are very hardy, and eaſily ſupported. Their number, in this pariſh, is 926. The cattle are alſo of the Highland kind; are kept principally for breeding, and amount to 3028.—The number of ſheep in the pariſh amounts to about 11,480. They are of the black-faced breed, which, for about half a century paſt, have gradually ſucceeded the antient Highland, or native kind, a few of which yet remain in ſome places in the neighbourhood. The above numbers of the live ſtock are excluſive of followers. Some trials have lately been made to introduce the Cheviot breed of ſheep. Lord Breadalbane, a few years ago, complimented ſome of his principal tenants with a few of the Cheviot ſheep, by way of trial. But none of the ſheep graziers have diſcovered any inclination to ſtock their farms with them, in preference to the black-faced kind.

Rental.—The real rent of the pariſh may be about 2800 l. Sterling. The value of land has riſen conſiderably theſe laſt 12 years, in conſequence of the riſe in the price of ſheep and black cattle. The produce of the pariſh is ſuppoſed to be rather more than what is ſufficient for the conſumpt of the inhabitants.

Antiquities.—On a ſmall iſland, at the weſt end of Loch Tay, are the ruins of a priory dependent on the religious eſtabliſhment of Scone. It was founded in the year 1122, by Alexander I. of Scotland, in which were depoſited the

remains of his Queen Sybill. That it was founded by Alexander appears by a grant made by that monarch, of the iſle in Loch Tay, directed *Epiſcopis, &c. Ut Eccleſia Dei ibi pro me, et pro anima Sybillae Reginae ibi defunctae, fabricatur, &c.*

Several Druidical temples have, in this pariſh, ſurvived the waſte of time; and the more deſtructive delapidations of the incurious and avaricious. One, perhaps the largeſt and moſt entire of any in Scotland, yet remains about two miles down from Kenmore, although not in that pariſh. It is about 60 yards in circumference, and conſiſts of three concentric circles. The ſtones in the outermoſt are not ſo large as thoſe in the inner circles, and are not, like them, ſet on end. In this pariſh are ſeveral Tiobaits, or wells, the waters of which were, of old, ſuppoſed to be poſſeſſed of healing qualities; ſome were good for the toothach; ſome for ſore eyes, &c. Now, however, they are very ſeldom viſited *.

* Several articles have been purpoſely omitted in this account, having been already mentioned in the accounts of Killin, Fortingale, &c.

The following Copy of a Letter, reſpecting the Statiſtical Account of the neighbouring Pariſh of Fortingale is, by the Rev. Mr Macara, and ſome other Gentlemen, requeſted to be annexed to the Statiſtical Hiſtory of the Pariſh of Kenmore.

" Imagining that the clergymen in the Highlands of Scotland would have been more particular in deſcribing the manners and circumſtances of the inhabitants of their pariſhes, during the feudal ſyſtem, which formerly prevailed, I in that perſuaſion repreſented the ſtate of my pariſh exactly as I found it, which I now regret, ſince, by my having done ſo, it may be inferred, that the inhabitants of the pariſh of Fortingale were in a peculiarly barbarous and miſerable ſituation, which was by no means the caſe, as from ſimilar cauſes the manners and circumſtances

cumſtances of all the inhabitants in the remote parts of the Highlands were, during the period alluded to, much the ſame.

" Being conſcious of having adhered to truth in the ſtatiſtical account of my pariſh, I will make no apology for it; and my only intention in ordering the publication of this is to remove any unfavourable impreſſion the readers of the Statiſtical Account of Scotland may have received, from my having been more particular in the account I have given, than my brethren in other remote parts of the Highlands of Scotland have thought neceſſary.

(Signed) " DUNCAN MACARA."

NUM-

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF KINLOCH.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD).

By the Rev. Mr JOHN BRODIE, *Miniſter.*

Name, Extent, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

KINLOCH takes its name from its relative ſituation to the loch hard by it; the word, in the Gaelic language, ſignifying the head of the loch. The pariſh is about 9 miles in length, from the north-weſt corner to the ſouth-eaſt corner; and one mile and a half is its greateſt breadth from eaſt to weſt. The pariſh church is diſtant from Perth, on the ſouth, about 15 miles; from Dunkeld, on the weſt, about 9 miles; from Coupar-Angus, on the ſouth-eaſt, about 4½ miles; and from Blairgowrie, on the eaſt, about a mile and a half From the lakes and flat lying grounds to the ſouthward of the church, the ground riſes in elevation for ſeveral miles to the northward. The ſouthern expoſure, the ſhelter from the high grounds to the northward, the beautiful lakes in the valley below, the plantations of wood on the eſtate of Marlee, and the other plantations and gentlemens ſeats in the neighbourhood, all conſpire to render the lower part of this pariſh a beautiful part of this country. The ſoil, though in general good, is of various qualities and denomina-

denominations, from rich to poor, mortary, loamy, and ſandy ſoils.

Lakes, Brooks, &c.—Though there is a great number of ſmall brooks in this pariſh, there are only two large ones, viz. Lornty-burn, and Lunen-burn. The former cuts the pariſh acroſs from weſt to eaſt. On it there is one corn-mill. The latter is the boundary of the pariſh on the ſouth-eaſt. On it there is another corn-mill in the pariſh. There are three lakes or lochs in this pariſh, viz. the Loch of Drumelie, the Rae Loch, and the Fenzies Loch, all the property of Mr Farquharſon of Invercauld. Drumelie Loch is ſituated a little to the weſtward of the houſe of Marlee; the Rae Loch about a quarter of a mile to the eaſtward of it; and the Fenzies Loch about a mile to the ſouth-eaſt of the houſe. Theſe lochs abound in pike, perch, and eel. In Drumelie loch are alſo to be had trout of a ſuperior ſize and quality. In this loch, and in Lunen-brook which iſſues from it, and which communicates with a number of fine lakes to the weſtward, are to be found trout in good order, that is fat, earlier in the ſeaſon, than in any other brook, river, or lake in this country. This brook has a rich muddy bottom, in which there is plenty of ſlick-worm, (a ſpecies of food which the trout peculiarly delight in), and as there is very little current in the brook, that food is not ſo apt to be ſwept away by the ſwelling flood, as it is in brooks and rivers where there is a ſtrong current.

Marl, &c.—In two of theſe lakes, there is a valuable treaſure of rich ſhell marl. In the moſs or marſh which is connected with the Rae Loch, there is a marl-pit, the firſt that was opened in this country. It was partially drained, and opened for public ſale, about the year 1734. The drain has

has been deepened by the preſent proprietor at different periods of time, and at very great expence. The Fenzies Loch has alſo been partially drained, and a great quantity of marl has been taken out of it by means of boats and nets. This loch has every where a marly bottom, and the marl is in many places of a very great depth. The ſales of marl at theſe pits have been very extenſive; and the advantages derived, not only to the proprietor of the marl, but alſo to all the proprietors of land in this neighbourhood, and to their tenants, have been very great. And theſe advantages would have been much greater had the proper method of cropping lands, when they were firſt marled, been rightly underſtood. Let it be obſerved, that there ſeems to be a natural and neceſſary connection betwixt ſpring water and ſhell marl: For, with reſpect to both the marl-pits above named, and all other marl-pits which the writer of this ſtatiſtical account has ſeen, a much greater quantity of water iſſues from the reſpective pits than the quantity that runs into them; at leaſt than the quantity that runs ſuperficially into them; and becauſe, notwithſtanding of repeated trials, this writer has never yet ſeen marl found in any pit, marſh, or lake, into which as much water is obſerved to run, as that which runs out of it. With reſpect to the ſituation of marl-pits, let it alſo be obſerved, with reſpect to theſe in this pariſh, with reſpect to all the marl-pits in this country, and perhaps in every other country, that the circumjacent ground riſes from the pit on all ſides, excepting that one by which the water iſſues from the pit. By attending to theſe two obſervations, a great deal of trouble may be ſaved in the courſe of ſearching for marl; and marl may be eaſily found in countries where it is not yet known.

Marl, as a manure, operates chiefly upon the earth by ſeparating its parts, rendering it more penetrable to the roots of

of plants, and thereby giving them acceſs to draw nouriſhment from many particles of earth which did not contribute to their nouriſhment before ſuch ſeparation. Therefore, the more thoroughly that marl is intermixed or incorporated with the ſoil to which it is applied, the more extenſive and powerful muſt be its effects.

Marl can, with more eaſe or difficulty, be pulveriſed and incorporated with the ſoil, in proportion as the marl is rich or poor. The richer the marl is, the leſs it has of a coheſive quality, and therefore will be the more eaſily incorporated, and the poorer the marl is, the more it has of a coheſive quality, and therefore will be with the greater difficulty pulveriſed and incorporated with the ſoil to which it is applied.

Marl, though ſpecifically lighter than the ſoil on the ſurface of which it is laid, does, by ſeparating the parts of the circumjacent earth, ſoon ſink below the ſurface. And if it be allowed to ſink in lumps, that is, before it be pulveriſed, a great proportion of that marl will never afterwards be got thoroughly to incorporate with the ſoil. The moſt advantageous method, therefore, of applying this valuable manure, in order to obtain the full benefit of the quantity applied, is to lay it on the ground while under a graſs crop, and leave it expoſed on the ſurface over the winter ſeaſon. The thickly interwoven roots of the graſs will prevent any conſiderable body of it from ſinking below the ſurface, till it be reduced by the winter froſts and rains, and, in ſmall particles, waſhed into the earth.

If marl muſt be laid on ground under fallow, it ſhould be previouſly put into a compoſt hill with earth, and, by mixing and turning, thoroughly pulveriſed.

Marl put into compoſt with hot dung, will, by the juices of the dung, be rendered more clammy and coheſive than it was before, and more unfit for incorporating with the earth.

If

If you ſow flax ſeed for the ſecond or third crop on marled ground, that is, while the influence of the ground is moſt powerful, though the crop will have a promiſing appearance till the beginning, or towards the middle of July, when the plant is about 7 or 8 inches long, about this time, (under the ſtrong influence of the ſun), the ſwelling and agitation of the earth, occaſioned by the powerful operation of the marl, break the tender fibres of this plant, while in its quickeſt growth, and cauſe it to decay.

Agriculture, &c.—This pariſh produces wheat, barley, oats, peaſe, flax, potatoes, and turnip. Clover and rye-graſs ſeeds are ſown extenſively. Potatoes are planted in much greater quantities, than they were a few years ago. Beſides their great utility for the table, they are found to be excellent food for horſes and black cattle, and are uſed as ſuch. A light, dry, or ſandy ſoil, is beſt for potatoes. The potatoe called the London Lady is the beſt of the early ſpecies of potatoes yet known in this pariſh. The red-noſed-white kidney potatoe, and the long-white-kidney potatoe, which are equally great or thick at both ends, are the beſt eating of the late ſpecies of potatoes; and the laſt mentioned of theſe is equally prolific with the common-late-round-white potatoe. The dark red Lancaſhire potatoe, if planted in a very dry ſandy ſoil, is more prolific than any other of the ſpecies above mentioned; it is alſo more ſolid, a meaſure-full of this ſpecies, outweighing conſiderably the ſame meaſure-full of any of the others. The above mentioned different ſpecies are the beſt of all the variety of potatoes cultivated in this country. It has been found here by repeated experiments, that the beſt method of preventing potatoes from degenerating, and of rendering them more prolific, is to raiſe potatoes now and then from the ſeed that grows upon the plant.

plant. The proceſs is eaſy, viz. take 3 large ripe apples from a ſtem of your favourite potatoe. Preſerve them carefully from the winter froſts. About the beginning of April prepare a bit of good rich garden ground. With a wooden pole form ſmall drills in it about an inch deep. Pick the ſeeds out of the apples, and ſow them as regularly as poſſible in theſe drills, and cover the ſeed with about half an inch depth of earth. In the mean time prepare another piece of good rich ground; and when the potatoe ſeedling plants have grown about an inch high above the ground, carefully raiſe them, with as much earth about the plants, reſpectively, as poſſible, and tranſplant them into the other piece of prepared ground, at the diſtance of 10 inches betwixt the plants in the row; and the diſtance of 14 inches betwixt the rows. Hoe them when needful, and take them up when ripe. If they have been thus cared for, you will have many of them as large as ſmall hen eggs the firſt ſeaſon. And, if you plant theſe ſeedling potatoes in good ground next ſpring, give them plenty of room, and take good care of them, you will, againſt next autumn, find their produce arrived at the full ſize of potatoes planted in the ordinary way. And from the ſeed of theſe three apples, you will have, the ſecond year, upwards of 4 bolls of potatoes. And theſe potatoes, thus raiſed from the apple ſeed, will continue, for ſeveral years, more prolific than potatoes which have not, for many years, been raiſed from the apple-ſeed.

If you plant the early potatoe called the London-Lady, or the early potatoe called the Glory of England, in rich, dry, warm lying ground, in the beginning of April, your crop will be ready for the market by the 20th of July. And if you then dreſs the ſame ground, and plant it with the ſame ſpecies of potatoes, which have been kept over the winter, and, by lying in a dry well-aired place, and by being fre-

quently turned, have been prevented from ſpringing too much during the preceding part of the ſummer, you will have a ſecond crop of potatoes on the ſame ground, ripe againſt the middle of October; and the ſecond crop will be much richer than the firſt, though, in point of quality, the potatoes will not be ſo dry and meally. The above directions are founded on ſtrict experiment and obſervation.

Improvements in agriculture began a conſiderable number of years ago to make their appearance in this pariſh and neighbourhood. For ſome time they advanced but ſlowly, being under the direction of only a few individuals; but a few years ago they became more general, and are now advancing with rapid progreſs. Beſides the deſire and hope of gain, a laudable ſpirit of emulation fully appears now actuating the public mind, and opens the fair proſpect of multifarious improvements.

Roads, &c.—There are two public roads in the pariſh; the one paſſing through the pariſh from ſouth to north, leading from the Boat of Kincleaven, to the Bridge of Cally, where it joins the military road which leads from Blairgowrie to Fort-George. The other croſſing the foreſaid road at the church, and paſſing through the pariſh from eaſt to weſt, leading from Blairgowrie towards Dunkeld. The former of theſe roads was made many years ago, principally by the ſtatute labour, under the direction, and by the aſſiſtance, of Mr Farquharſon of Invercauld. The latter is now making under the direction of Mr Campbell of Achalader. The ſtatute labour is here now converted into money, and the heritors ſeem determined that that money ſhall be properly applied. They fix upon a proper plan, and when the public fund falls ſhort of defraying the expence of executing that plan, they make up the deficiency out of their own private pockets.

pockets. The particular attention now paid to the roads by the heritors of this pariſh, and indeed by the other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, does them much honour, as it muſt redound to the unſpeakable advantage of the public.

Plantations, &c.—There is a good deal of hard wood, ſuch as aſh, &c. in the pariſh, particularly on Mr Farquharſon's eſtate of Marlee, and Mr Campbell's eſtates of Glaſſclune and Balleid. There are alſo plantations of ſeveral ſpecies of firs on the eſtate of Marlee, and three conſiderable plantations on the eſtate of Glaſſclune. Of all the fir tribe, the larix takes the lead, in every ſoil and ſituation. Being a quick grower, and of good quality, it has become a favourite object of the landed gentlemen, who incline to improve their property by the plantation of wood. There are larix trees now growing at Marlee, which were planted by the preſent proprietor about 36 years ago, ſome of which meaſure 5 feet 5 inches in circumference, and above 70 feet in length. This gentleman has, for a great number of years back, raiſed here from the ſeed, annually, a great number of thouſands of plants of this ſpecies of fir, and annually tranſmitted many thouſands of them to the north country, to clothe and ornament a few of his lofty mountains of Braemar, to ſtand a beautiful monument of perſevering induſtry, and to ſerve future generations with that valuable wood!

Mr Campbell of Achalader, who is ſubſtantially improving the farm of Balleid, which he occupies, has introduced the larix as a ſubſtitute for the thorn hedge. The larches are planted in double rows, at the diſtance of about 18 inches betwixt the plants in the row, and the diſtance of 14 inches betwixt the rows, the plants in the one row ſtanding oppoſite to the vacancies in the other. As the larix thrives in every ſoil; as thorns do not thrive in very dry poor ſoils, it muſt

muſt be a great improvement to plant larches inſtead of thorns, for fences, in all theſe kinds of ſoils which cannot afford a ſufficient quantity of moiſture to make thorns proſper. And even in rich ſoils, and thoſe which afford plenty of moiſture for thorns, it will be found, that larches will ſooner become a fence than thorns, and with much leſs trouble and expence.

Hills, Fuel, Game, &c.—There are no hills in this pariſh, excepting the hill of Cochrage, belonging to Mr Campbell of Achalader; and it merits rather the names of a muir and moſs, than that of a hill. It is of a conſiderable extent, and contains a great quantity of peat-moſs. On this moſs, the inhabitants of this country, to the diſtance of a conſiderable number of miles to the ſouth-eaſt of the moſs, uſed principally to depend for their fuel, peat and turf. But now that the attention of the farmers is much taken up in the ſummer ſeaſon, with improvements in agriculture, the inhabitants of this pariſh and neighbourhood, (excepting thoſe reſiding near the moſs) principally depend for fuel upon coals, driven from the ſhores of Perth and Dundee.

In this hill of Cochrage, there are a good many grouſe or muir-fowl, and a few heath-fowl or black-cock. There were no heath-fowl to be ſeen in this pariſh or neighbourhood, till within theſe few years. They came from the woods and muirs in the neighbourhood of Dunkeld, and are now to be ſeen in almoſt every muir in this neighbourhood, where there is plenty of heath for food, and wood for ſhelter. The numerous riſing plantations are alſo beginning to invite the roe-deer, which, till within theſe few years, had not, for ſome ages paſt, made their abode in theſe lower parts of this country.

In

In the lower parts of this pariſh, hares and partridges abound. And about the latter end of autumn, a vaſt number and variety of water-fowl, particularly the wild duck, and the different ſpecies of teals, repair to the lakes before mentioned, and there continue to gather occaſionally the gleanings of the neighbouring corn fields, till theſe fields are covered with ſnow, or bound up with froſt. Then they depend for ſubſiſtence on the open lakes, marſhes, and ſprings. And when theſe are all ſhut up except a few powerful ſprings, they betake themſelves to the open rivers, and there continue till the increaſing froſts drive them, emaciated, back to the ſea ſhores. A few of them remain here over winter, and hatch in the ſpring ſeaſon. The wood-cock, alſo, who viſits us about the middle or end of October, feeds in our woods till the winter froſts ſet in, when he cannot, with his feet or bill, turn over the fallen leaves: Then he takes to the woods and thickets where ſprings moſt abound; and when the froſts have long continued very intenſe, inſtigated by neceſſity, he wings his way to more ſouthern climes, where the loote lying leaves of the woods, and the open marſhes and ſprings, admit his long tender bill, and invite him to pick up, and ſuck from their open ſtores, the ſcanty pittance of food which he demands. He reviſits us about the middle of February, on his way to a more northern climate, where he fixes his place for propagating his ſpecies.—But why repair to theſe northern climates to propagate thy ſpecies? Do the Norwegian woods afford thy tender young ones a more plentiful ſupply of food, and every other thing ſuited to their nature, than could be found in more ſouthern climates? In theſe northern climates, is the year far advanced before the ſnows are diſſolved? Does the diſſolution of the ſnows and froſts afford plenty of ſprings, and moiſture in the woods? If thou delighteſt in the ſmall

ſeeds

ſeeds of vegetables, doſt thou find that, againſt the ſeaſon of incubation, they are not, by vegetation, rendered unfit for thy uſe? Againſt the time when thou haſt got thy brood under thy wings, has the animating ſun produced, by his influence, plenty of animalculi and inſects amongſt the fallen leaves of the woods, and encourage many ſmall reptiles to come up to the ſurface of the earth, and mix among the leaves? Doſt thou find them in plenty for thyſelf and for thy brood? and plenty of food alſo among the ſprings? Yes thou doſt; and with that plenty thou continueſt, till thy young ones are grown up to full ſize and ſtrength, and are fully fledged. And when the killing froſts ſet in, and the falling ſnows threaten to cover up thy favourite haunts, thou leaveſt thy native woods, and betakeſt thyſelf to thoſe in more ſouthern climates.

Antiquities, &c.—There is one Druidical temple in the pariſh, on the road leading from Blairgowrie to Dunkeld. There is an old caſtle at Glaſſclune, ſituated on the promontory of the ſteep bank of a deep den. It appears from its ſituation to have been a very ſtrong hold, before the uſe of fire arms was introduced into this country. Mr Campbell of Achalader is the preſent proprietor; Mr Blair was his predeceſſor; and Mr Heron, Mr Blair's. As to when it was built, and by whom, even tradition itſelf is ſilent.

A pair of very large deer's horns were found a few years ago, in a bed of marl, in Mr Farquharſon's marl-pit at Marlee. From their ſuperior ſize, and palmed form, they appear to be the horns of the elk-deer, antiently the ſtately inhabitant of the Caledonian foreſts. It is remarkable that deers horns have been found in different marl-pits in this country, in an entire ſtate; but never found in the moſs above the marl, nor in the ſtratum of ſand or clay, betwixt the

the uppermoſt and the loweſt beds of marl; nor in the ſtratum of clay or ſand below the undermoſt bed of marl; but in the bed of marl itſelf; which circumſtance renders it probable, that ſhell-marl is well adapted for preſerving certain ſubſtances from decay.

There is in a muir in this pariſh, a vaſt number of tumuli, called the Haer Cairns. In this muir, it is thought, that the famous battle between Agricola the Roman general, and Galgacus the general of the Caledonians, was fought.

A particular detail on this ſubject would ſtretch this ſtatiſtical account to too great a length. The writer, therefore, begs leave to refer the reader to what is ſaid on the ſubject in the ſtatiſtical accounts of the neighbouring pariſhes of Clunie and Bendochy; and in the meantime ventures to aſſert, that the antiquarian will, upon due examination, find a ſtrong probability that this was the ſcene of the action.

Population, Beſtial, &c.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls, in 1755, was 331. The number of ſouls now is 372. Of that number 177 are males, and 195 females. There are 311 above 8 years of age, and 61 below that age. There are 6 females ſingle perſons, who are houſeholders; 2 widows, who have 2 children each; and 2 males ſingle perſons, each above 80 years of age.—Number of marriages within the laſt 7 years, 30. Average number annually, 4.—Number of baptiſms within the laſt 7 years, 74. Average number annually, 10.—There are in the pariſh 141 horſes, 522 black cattle, and 250 ſheep.

Heritors, Valued Rents, &c.—There are 6 heritors in this pariſh, viz. Colonel John Campbell of Achalader, James Farquharſon of Invercauld, Lieut. Thomas Hog of Thorngreen, James Scott of Nether Balcairn, William Mitchell portioner of

of Weſter Kinloch, and Colonel William Lindſay of Ardblair. Two of them reſide in the pariſh during part of the year; two are conſtant reſidenters; and two non-reſident. The valued rent of the pariſh is 1705 l. 10 s. Scots money.

Church, Manſe, Stipend, School, &c.—The heritors built a good manſe and offices about 22 years ago; built a handſome and commodious church about two years ago; and a neat ſchool and ſchool-houſe laſt year. The glebe is much about the legal extent. The ſtipend (valuing 59 bolls victual at 15 s. per boll), is about 80 l. Sterling.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 10 l. Sterling.

Manufactures, &c.—The principal manufacture in this pariſh is that of flax, which, in raiſing, ſpinning, bleaching, and weaving it, occupies the labour of a conſiderable number of the inhabitants. There are in the pariſh 6 weavers, 2 maſons, 4 joiners, 2 blackſmiths, 2 ſhoemakers, 2 taylors, 1 flaxdreſſer, 1 brewer, 1 merchant, 26 farmers, and 2 millers.

The hire of day-labourers, and the fees of ſervants, &c. are the ſame here as in the neigbouring pariſhes.

Sectaries.—There are in this pariſh one family of the Church of England, one family and 4 individuals of the Roman Catholic perſuaſion, and one family and 5 individuals Seceders.

Character of the People.—In delineating the character of the people of this pariſh, I can conſcientiouſly ſay, more eſpecially comparing them with the inhabitants of many other diſtricts, that they have rational ſentiments of religion; that they are regular attendants on the ordinances of divine inſtitution;

ſtitution; that, on the whole, they are diſintereſted, benevolent, humane, and charitable; that they are ſlow to ſpeak, modeſt in converſation, reſpectful to ſuperiors, obedient to thoſe who have the rule over them, quiet in their behaviour, and, from religious principle, thankful and loyal ſubjects of the Britiſh government. At the ſame time, if we keep in view the great ſtandard of perfection, by which we ought to judge of the human character, I mean the laws of our holy religion, and the perfect pattern of perfect excellence, which the Divine Author of it hath left for our imitation, I muſt ſay, that, upon a cloſe examination, there are to be ſeen, on the face of this fair character, ſome ſpecks; and that there is good ground, and fair opportunity, for improving, purifying, ornamenting, and adorning it.

May a humble ſenſe of ſuch imperfections, ever keep our hearts open to the nobleſt motives for improvements!

Quantoquiſque ſibi plura negaverit, a dis plura feret.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF INSCH.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.—PRESBYTERY OF GARIOCH).

By a FRIEND *to* STATISTICAL INQUIRIES.

Origin of the Name, Situation, and Boundaries.

INCH, or, as it is commonly written, *Inſch*, ſeems to derive its name from its local ſituation on a low flat, ſituated cloſe by the ſide of a ſmall rivulet. This pariſh lies in the county and ſynod of Aberdeen, and in that diſtrict of the county which is called the Garioch, and gives name to the preſbytery in which Inſch is ſituated. It is diſtant about 26 miles from Aberdeen; and is bounded on the ſouth by the pariſhes of Oyne and Premnay; on the weſt, by Kinnethmont and Gartly; on the north, by Drumblate and Forgue; and on the eaſt by Culſalmond.

Figure and Extent; Soil and Proportion of Arable Land.—Its figure is that of an oblong ſquare, 5 miles long by 3 in breadth. Its area 15 miles, or nearly 7500 Scots acres. The land, in the ſouthern parts of the pariſh, is generally of a moſt excellent ſoil, and produces rich and early crops; but along the ſkirts of the hill of Fondland, and in the glens or narrow vallies, which run up from the low country through that hill, the ſoil is not ſo fertile, and the crops are late

late and precarious. About one third of the whole pariſh (or 2500 acres) is cultivated at preſent, and 5000 acres are not cultivated. But it deſerves to be noticed, that of this uncultivated part, ſeveral hundred acres on the hill of Fondland, and in the glens or narrow vallies above mentioned, not only are arable, but were formerly under cultivation. Theſe are now neglected, and produce nothing but heath. They were firſt deſerted by the farmers in the end of laſt century, when that part of the country was almoſt depopulated by 7 years of famine: And now they lie neglected, along with many thouſand acres, in like ſituation, in different parts of the north of Scotland.

Hills.—The largeſt of theſe is the hill of Fondland above mentioned, which extends into ſeveral pariſhes, and is elevated about 800 feet above the level of the ſea. This extenſive hill ſhelters the pariſh of Inſch, and a conſiderable part of the diſtrict of Garioch, upon the north; and hence partly occaſions its great natural fertility. In the moſt elevated part of Fondland, and in that part which is ſituated in the pariſh of Inſch, are extenſive quarries of fine blue ſlate, a conſiderable quantity of which is yearly dug up, and manufactured for ſale. This hill ſeems once to have been a very conſiderable hunting foreſt. Its name, which is from the Gaelic, is expreſſive of this; for *faoed*, in the Gaelic, ſignifies hunting. And, in the moſſes of this hill, very large trees, particularly oaks, are frequently dug up. It now abounds in moſs, heath, and moor game. About half a mile from the town of Inſch, ſtands the curious and noted hill of Dun-o-deer, with the ruins of a very antient caſtle on the top of it. Dun-o-deer, or *Dundore* in Gaelic, is ſaid to ſignify *the Hill in the Wood*; and very probably all the lower grounds, around that inſulated hill, have once been covered with wood. It is remarkable ſteep on all ſides, is of a conical ſhape, and covered with a very fine green ſward. Hec-

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tor Boethius calls it *Dundore, the golden mountain in Garioch*; and ſays, that the teeth of the ſheep that paſtured upon it were of the colour of gold. It ſtill affords moſt excellent paſture for ſheep, but has no ſuch quality as is aſcribed to it by that very credulous hiſtorian. This hill is about 3000 yards in circumference, and above 300 feet high, and ſeems to ſpring from the level plain of the Garioch. It has been, probably in ſome very early period, a volcano, though different opinions are formed concerning this curious hill.

Rivers and projected Canal.—The ſmall rivulets in this pariſh are not worth notice on their own account; but they are very proper for ſupplying with water a projected canal from Inſch to Aberdeen. This canal has been ſome time in contemplation, and at preſent it is thought that it will ſucceed, at leaſt as far as Inverury. The ſubſcription for the undertaking is already ſwelled to a great amount. But if the *proprietors of land* were to carry on the canal, and to contribute ſums proportioned to their property; and if, inſtead of 2 d. per ton for each mile, only a halfpenny per ton (for defraying the expence of boats, and keeping the canal in repair) were exacted, a number of heavy articles, ſuch as ſtones for London, and potatoes for Denmark and Norway, would be carried to Aberdeen, which could not be carried, if the canal dues or porterage be high; and the lands in this diſtrict would ſoon increaſe in rent, much more than all the intereſt of the money expended on the canal. Should this canal ſucceed, it is difficult to ſay, how much the rich diſtrict of *the Garioch*, for which nature has done ſo much, and art ſo little, may advance in value in 30 or 40 years. From this pariſh the ſlate from the hill of Fondland would be exchanged for lime from Aberdeen.

Agriculture,

Agriculture.—A better mode of cultivating the land is now adopted than what formerly prevailed. But a regular rotation of crops is not yet eſtabliſhed, though conſiderable quantities of turnips and potatoes are reared annually. Oats and barley are ſtill the principal crops in this pariſh. Should, however, the canal above mentioned take place, many hundreds of acres, beſides thoſe which were once cultivated, but are now deſerted, would be brought into cultivation; and, inſtead of a poor ſtinted ſort of heath, would produce luxuriant crops of corn and graſs.

Manure.—The only manure uſed in this pariſh, except the dung raiſed on the farms, is lime brought from Aberdeen. There was a ſmall quantity of marl on one farm, called Nether Boddom, but it was exhauſted ſeveral years ago. And ſo ignorant were the country people of its proper value, that they uſed it as plaſter to the walls of their houſes. It was, however, of conſiderable ſervice to the farm in which it was found. Perhaps this ſmall quantity is a proof that more marl might be diſcovered in the diſtrict, if the proprietors would be at the expence of ſearching for it.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has decreaſed within theſe 40 years. In Dr Webſter's account it is ſtated at 995; it is now only 900, or 95 leſs. The population of the country pariſhes in the north of Scotland decreaſed much in the end of the laſt century, as may be ſeen, by comparing the numbers who paid the poll-tax, (a number certainly ſhort of the whole population), with the numbers given in Dr Webſter's account. There was, however, in the firſt 60 years of this century, a rapid increaſe of the population, which was brought pretty near to its former ſtate, when the ſcarcity of moſs in country pariſhes, and the demand

mand for labour about towns on the ſea coaſt, drew off a number of people to reſide in the royal boroughs, or manufacturing towns. It is now chiefly in thoſe pariſhes, in which manufacturing villages are found, that the population is increaſing. In all probability, however, it will increaſe for ſome time. The introduction of potatoes has added much to the quantity of human food; and with an increaſe of proviſion, there will always be an increaſed population.

Village.—The town of Inſch, where the church ſtands, is ſituated at the ſouthern extremity of the pariſh. It is a burgh of barony, has a weekly market, and two or three yearly fairs; but they are much on the decline. The carrying the canal to this village would be attended with important advantages, as it would become the market place for all the upper parts of the Garioch. The feuers of this town are heritable proprietors of their houſes and ſmall gardens. They are either ſhopkeepers or mechanics; and they rent ſmall farms from Colonel Hay of Rannes, who is ſuperior of the town, and proprietor of the lands in the neighbourhood.

Manufactures.—The knitting of ſtockings for the Aberdeen manufacturers is the principal employment of the women of this diſtrict. It is at preſent at a ſtand; and, from various cauſes, is preſumed to be on the decline.

Antiquities.—The old caſtle, built on the top of the conical hill of Dun-o-deer, is a very great curioſity. Tradition ſays it was built by King Gregory the Great, more than 900 years ago; yet a conſiderable part of the walls are ſtill ſtanding; and the materials of which the walls are built are of a ſingular kind, and have given riſe to various conjectures.

In

In a periodical paper called the Bee, lately publiſhed at Edinburgh, there was lately given a very particular, and pretty accurate deſcription of the hill and caſtle of Dun-o-deer, with a copper-plate engraving. The author of that deſcription ſuppoſes the materials of the caſtle to be part of a vitrified fort. But it appears at leaſt as probable, that this mount, as well as the Top-o-Noth, another of the ſame kind, a few miles diſtant from it, have been volcanos, and that this old caſtle has been built with ſome of the volcanic matter dug out of the hill. The gentlemen of the diſtrict of Garioch, ſome years ago, ſubſcribed a few guineas for white-waſhing the ruins of this caſtle, which were worth the expence of adorning and preſerving.

Proprietors.—There are 6 heritors, of whom Mr Gordon of Rothney is the only reſident proprietor. The rent of the pariſh is about 1200 l.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The manſe of Inſch was built in 1771; and the church is lately repaired. Mr George Daun was admitted miniſter of Inſch in 1790. The ſtipend is about 70 l.; but a proceſs of augmentation is depending. Sir William Forbes of Craigievar is patron of the pariſh. The kirk-ſeſſion, beſides their other funds, have the property of a ſmall piece of land, called the Baſs, which was bequeathed to them for the uſe of the poor, by an heritor of the town of Inſch, in the laſt century.

Character of the People.—The people are decent in their behaviour, and induſtrious in their occupations; and, like the inhabitants of all country pariſhes, more ſimple in their manners, and more pure in morals than the inhabitants of towns.

towns. The decay of the weekly markets has not been prejudicial to the morals of the inhabitants of the village.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are no plantations of wood, nor hardly any thing that deſerves the name of an incloſure, as there are neither hedges, nor ſtone fences, which deſerve to be noticed. The diſtance from Aberdeen, and the ſhort leaſes, added to the want of capital in the farmers, are great diſadvantages to a diſtrict naturally fertile. The carrying a canal to Inſch from Aberdeen, and granting long leaſes, with periodical riſes of rent, and advancing money to purchaſe lime, free of intereſt for two years, would ſoon render this pariſh, and the diſtrict of Garioch, antiently called the granary of Aberdeen, one of the moſt valuable diſtricts in North Britain.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF QUEENSFERRY.

(COUNTY OF WEST LOTHIAN.—SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDALE.—PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW).

By Mr JOHN HENDERSON, *Minister.*

Origin of the Name.

QUEENSFERRY (the paſſage of the Queen) derives its name from Margaret, Queen of Malcolm Canmore, a Princeſs celebrated for her charitable and beneficent virtues. She frequented the paſſage much, and was the great patroneſs of the place; hence the name by which it is now diſtinguiſhed certainly originated.

Situation and Extent.—Queensferry is ſituated in the county of Weſt Lothian, in the preſbytery of Linlithgow, and in the ſynod of Lothian and Tweedale. The pariſh is of ſmall extent, conſiſting only of the borough, (the royalty not extending to the two ends of the town). It is an erection within the pariſh of Dalmeny, which took place in the year 1636; is ſurrounded by that pariſh on the ſouth-weſt and eaſt, and bounded by the Frith of Forth on the north.

Manufactures.—The principal manufacture of this place is that of ſoap. It was here that firſt in Scotland the making of brown ſoap was brought to its preſent degree of perfection.

This manufacture commenced about the year 1770, and has ſince been carried on with varying ſucceſs. From the year 1783 to 1789, it was a flouriſhing and extenſive trade. There were 4 large works, which employed from 20 to 30 labouring men, and paid an exciſe-duty from 8000l. to 10,000l. *per annum*. In the year 1789, the ſoap trade in Scotland met a conſiderable check. It was for ſome time almoſt annihilated here. It has ſince, however, happily revived, and is now carried on with a great deal of ſpirit.

Commerce.—The commerce of this town has been for a long time in a ſtate of decline. About the year 1640, the ſhipmaſters here were owners of above 20 veſſels, moſt of them large brigs, and generally employed in the carrying trade. But as this trade has been found often to ſhift its ſituations, this place at preſent has none of it. About 9 years ago, ſeveral veſſels were built here, one of them a ſhip above 500 tons burden, and fitted out for the Greenland fiſhery. A trade was carried on by a very ſpirited inhabitant. But as lately he ſold the whole of his ſhipping, at preſent there is not a veſſel belonging to this port.

Fiſhery.—Attempts have been made to eſtabliſh a fiſhery here, at leaſt ſuch a fiſhery as might ſupply the town and neighbourhood, but hitherto without ſucceſs; although it is the general opinion, that 2 or 3 induſtrious fiſhermen might ſettle here to advantage. The fiſh to be found in this part of the Frith are cod, haddocks, whitings, ſkate, flounders, herrings, crabs, lobſters, and oyſters. There are alſo ſome very fine muſcle ſcalps. The herring fiſhery, which has lately taken place in this neighbourhood, forms a moſt pleaſant article in a ſtatiſtical account.

It began at the end of the year 1792, oppoſite to this, and in

in the part of the Frith without the Bay of Inverkeithing. During that ſeaſon a plentiful ſupply of good herrings was ſent to the coaſt towns, and to many inland places at a conſiderable diſtance. Next ſeaſon the herrings were ſtill more plentiful, and the markets more plentifully ſupplied. Little was done in curing for foreign markets. The merchants, who were inclined to engage in the trade, regretted that they were not provided with the neceſſary articles of barrels and ſalt. The laſt was a ſeaſon of an extenſive and profitable fiſhery. From the middle of October to the 1ſt of March laſt, from this place, you could count from 80 to 100 boats almoſt every day buſily and ſucceſsfully employed. Herrings were found in great abundance from Burntiſland to above Borrowſtounneſs. Fiſhermen reſorted to this from all quarters. A ſingle boat often came in with 30 or 40 barrels, which were ſold for 8 l. or 10 l. A great number of herring buſſes came from Glaſgow, by the great canal, and had a moſt ſucceſsful fiſhery. Vaſt quantities were cured and ſent to the foreign markets. About 6000 barrels were cured at this port. The inland part of the country was plentifully ſupplied, at the diſtance of 30 or 40 miles, by land carriage. The retail price here notwithſtanding, at an average, was not more than 6 d. a hundred.

It is a pretty general opinion, that the herring ſhoals have formerly frequented this part of the Frith, and might often have been found in the places where the fiſhery has been lately ſo ſucceſsful. If ſo, it is a ſubject of much regret, that the opportunities of ſuch a profitable fiſhery have been loſt; and the public are taught not to neglect to explore the ſeas which ſurround our iſland, as almoſt every part of them is found to contain ſtores not only ſufficient to diffuſe plenty among the inhabitants, but alſo amply to reward and enrich

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the merchant who may be diſpoſed to engage in the exportation trade.

Harbour.—The eaſt pier was lately repaired, and lengthened above 60 feet. Workmen are juſt now employed in rebuilding the weſt pier. When this work is finiſhed, the harbour will be in a complete ſtate of repair, which is of importance not only to the town, but alſo to the public. The materials for ſoap making, as well as the greater part of the coals conſumed by the inhabitants, are carried by water. Veſſels going up and down the Frith are often obliged to run in here in hard gales. Some years ago, when the ports in Mid Lothian were ſhut, a great number of veſſels loaded with wheat were delivered at this port, which would have been ſcarcely practicable if the eaſt pier had not then been repaired. The greater part of the ſum expended in theſe repairs, amounting nearly to 1000 l. has been raiſed by ſubſcription. In aid of the work, the Royal Boroughs have given 100 l.

Paſſage *.—There is much obſcurity about the founding of this paſſage. The right of it is private property; and ſeems originally to have been attached to the lands of Muiryhall, lying in the neighbourhood, conſiſting of about 17 acres, ſaid to have been gifted by Queen Margaret for upholding this paſſage. The preſent proprietors are ſeveral gentlemen, both on the ſouth and north ſide. Till lately there were too deſcriptions of proprietors, the proprietors of the water-paſſage, and the proprietors of the boats and yawls plying on the paſſage.

* For any additional information reſpecting this paſſage, the number of boats and men employed in it, and other particulars, the reader will pleaſe conſult the Statiſtical Account of Inverkeithing.

ſage. The latter conſiſted of ſeveral perſons, ſhipmaſters and others, who erected themſelves into what is called a Boat Club, built and kept in repair a ſufficient number of boats and yawls, and took leaſes from the proprietors of the water-paſſage, by which they were entitled to ply on this ferry. Such was the practice till the year 1784, when the proprietors of the water-paſſage, refuſing to grant leaſes to the owners of boats and yawls, purchaſed the whole of them, and have ſince let them yearly by roup. By this change the public have gained ſeveral advantages. The boats and yawls are kept in excellent repair, under the inſpection of a judicious perſon, appointed by the proprietors. The rules and regulations of the paſſage have been painted on boards, and affixed at ſome proper place on the inns at both ſides. Two gentlemen, one on this, the other on the north ſide, are inveſted with powers to decide all matters in diſpute; ſo that, if the regulations are not obſerved, or more than the fares demanded, the public have themſelves only to blame. It has been much debated, whether or not the charter by which the paſſage is held ſhould not be taken away, indemnification given to the proprietors, and the right to the paſſage laid open to every one who ſhould chuſe to ply upon it. There is not much difficulty, it is apprehended, in deciding the queſtion. A paſſage ſo much frequented as this, muſt be kept under ſtrict regulations. Theſe are beſt made, and can only be well obſerved, by making the right of the paſſage private property, or by veſting it in ſome company. Beſides, were the paſſage laid open to every needy adventurer, who might find means to fit out a boat or yawl, the public would have no ſecurity that ſuch boats and yawls would be kept in ſufficient repair, or properly manned. From motives of profit, too, the owners of them might be tempted to riſk a paſſage, which, from the weather, might be dangerous, or even ſometimes fatal.

So

So long then as the paſſage is furniſhed with good boats and yawls, well manned; ſo long as it is kept under its preſent regulations; and ſo long as the rates of the ſeveral freights are ſo reaſonable, or rather ſo very low, the public ought to be well ſatisfied that it continue with the preſent proprietors. There is, however, an object of great importance, reſpecting the paſſage, to which the attention of the public ought to be directed, that is, the ſtate of the landing-places, or *ſhippings*, as they are called. Theſe, eſpecially at South Queensferry, are not in good repair; nor have a ſufficient number of them been built, ſo as to render the paſſage commodious. One, called the Gray Shipping weſt of the pier, is in total diſrepair, though it is a landing place much frequented when the water is far back, eſpecially at ſpring tides. It is painful for a ſpectator to witneſs the difficulties paſſengers meet, the dangers to which they are expoſed in getting to or from that place, as they have to ſcramble a conſiderable way among rocks and large ſtones, rendered ſlippery by being covered with wet ſea-weed. To this landing-place the boatmen are often obliged to carry, with much jeopardy to themſelves, the great mail on the north road. The only fund for upholding the landing-places, on both ſides, is an appropriation of the 40th part of the groſs freights, called the *ferry ſilver*, amounting, at an average, to about 35 l. *per annum*; a ſum far from being ſufficient. Occaſional aid has been given by the Royal Boroughs, and by the Commiſſioners for the forfeited eſtates. When, therefore, it is conſidered that this is one of the moſt frequented paſſages in the kingdom, and that it will continue to be much frequented from its many conveniencies, which are well known, every thing relating to its regulations, and the ſtate of its repairs, is intereſting to the public. The police of the country has been actively and uſefully employed in making

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and repairing roads and bridges; and, it is humbly apprehended, it would also be usefully employed in directing its attention to the state of the landing places of this ferry, by taking measures for the raising and appropriating a sufficient fund for building and keeping them in proper repair, by which the passage might be rendered more safe, and much more commodious *.

Population.—The population of this parish, as stated to Dr Webster about 44 years ago, was 400. In 1791 an accurate list was taken, when the number of souls amounted to 505. It has since varied little.

Abstract of the Births, Marriages, and Burials, as they are entered in the parish register for the last 10 years.

Years.	*Births.*	*Marriages.*	*Burials.*
1785,	12	3	24
1786,	21	6	10
1787,	15	3	12
1788,	22	2	20
1789,	15	4	24
1790,	14	5	8
1791,	15	2	18
1792,	28	7	10
1793,	9	2	20
1794,	22	1	13
Total	173	35	159
Yearly average	$17\frac{3}{10}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{9}{10}$

Poor.

* Perhaps the best way of effecting this would be, by an act of Parliament, for levying additional rates, and borrowing, upon the credit of the fund, what might be necessary for repairing the landing places, and other improvements at the Ferry.

Poor.—The parish funds are ample, consisting of the collection at the church-doors, amounting, at an average, to 22 l. and of the interest of a considerable sum of money. The parish being small, and the state of the poor perfectly known to the session, they have adopted it as a rule, not considering the poor as the best economists, to give small pensions once a month, and to supply them according to the exigencies, as in personal or family distress, to give coals, pay house-rents, &c. The average number of poor on the roll is 16.

Stipend.—The stipend was lately augmented, and is now worth 105 l. *per annum.* There is neither manse nor glebe. The Magistrates and Town-Council are patrons.

Sea-Bathing Quarters.—The water, rendered stronger by the narrowness of the Frith at this place; its vicinity to Edinburgh; its easy communication with that city; the dryness and salubrity of the air; the beauty and variety of the surrounding scenery; the excellent accommodation for lodging, all render Queensferry a most convenient and pleasant situation for sea-bathing quarters.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The weather in this neighbourhood is particularly dry, and the climate healthful. Several persons lately died in this parish upwards of 90. For more than 12 years past, there has been no epidemical disease except the confluent small-pox, as there are still some people among us who, from scruples, resist the salutary practice of inoculation.

This was originally a sea-faring town; and a great proportion of its inhabitants are men who have been employed in this line, who, having acquired a decent competency, and having always

always kept up a connection and attachment, have returned to their families and their friends, to ſettle and ſpend their days in the place of their nativity. Thus the ſociety of a little town is continued, enlarged, and made more happy.

From this circumſtance, which muſt have influence on early education, and from a ſort of ſea-buſtle, which is every day to be ſeen here, on account of the paſſage, it has happened that moſt of the young men have been inclined to try their fortune at ſea. During the late American war, there were from 30 to 40 ſailors from this town in his Majeſty's ſervice. In the preſent war there are 35. Some of them officers in the army, or ſurgeons, or lieutenants and midſhipmen in the navy; all of them employed in the ſervice of their country.

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH OF NESTING,

In Shetland.

By a Friend to Statiſtical Inquiries.

Name, &c.

NESTING, like the greater number, if not all the names of places in the Shetland Iſlands, is evidently of Norwegian extraction. Its meaning is unknown, the Norſe language being at preſent no longer ſpoken in Shetland. The miniſtry of Neſting conſiſts of four different parts. The pariſh of Neſting, the pariſh of Lunneſting, and the pariſh of Whalſay. To theſe are annexed the detached iſlands of Skerries, which, about twenty years ago, formed a part of a very extenſive charge, eſtabliſhed on the royal bounty, for a miſſionary paid from that fund. For theſe many years the ſalary has been diſcontinued; and, of conſequence, the poor inhabitants of theſe detached iſlands of Toula, Fair Iſle, and Skerries, who labour under many local diſadvantages, inſeparably annexed to their ſituation by the God of Nature, have now to lament, that they are deprived of their only mean of religious inſtruction. There is however a fair proſpect of getting this uſeful miſſion re-eſtabliſhed by the Committee on the Royal Bounty. This miniſtry forms a part of the preſbytery of Shetland, which has ſynodical powers within itſelf, as no appeal

appeal lies from that preſbytery, but to the General Aſſembly.

Fiſheries.—The inhabitants adventure in what we call the Great Fiſheries of ling, cod, and tuſk; but the principal part of their ſubſiſtence ariſes from the ſmall fiſhing of pilltock and ſillock, which, except in very extraordinary years, they can purſue at no expence, and with great advantage, all the year round.

Population.—This miniſtry contains a greater number of inhabitants, in proportion to the rental land, than any other in Shetland, owing to the exertions of the two principal heritors, Mr Bruce Steuart of Symbiſter, and Mr Hunter of Lunna, in making outſets, or new ſettlements, on grounds formerly uncultivated. Theſe improvements have been attempted with the view of increaſing the number of fiſhermen on their reſpective eſtates; but when the fiſhing fails, as it often does, theſe ſettlers on new grounds become burdens on the proprietor; and, without the aſſiſtance of their landmaſter, muſt ſtarve, when the ſmall fiſhing fails for their ſupport; for none of them have a poſſeſſion of land, that, with the beſt cultivation, and in the moſt favourable years, can ſupply their families in meal, or any kind of grain, for nearly one half of the year.

So long as the preſent proprietors of Whalſay and Lunneſting are able to continue in the management of their own lands the tenants may continue, and the lands may be cultivated; but, ſhould the ſucceſſors of theſe gentlemen have a leſs active, or a different turn of mind, there is reaſon to fear a great decreaſe of the population.

Population

Population of Neſting, Lunneſting, Whalſay, and Skerries, in the year 1781.

	Number of ſouls.
Neſting, 91 families - - -	485
Lunneſting, 80 families - - -	480
Whalſay Iſland 84 families - -	500
Skerry Iſles, 11 families. - -	70
Total number of ſouls in 1781	1535

It is believed that the above ſtate is not greatly under or above the truth, although it is juſt now only ſtated from memory There is no doubt, that the preſent population of this miniſtry is conſiderably increaſed; and I am inclined to believe, that now (1793) the inhabitants are not under 1800. The ſtipend of this miniſtry is at preſent one of the higheſt in theſe iſlands. An augmentation was granted about 16 years ago, which raiſes the value of the living, *communibus annis*, to about 85l. Sterling. But as both parſonage and vicarage teinds are payable in butter and oil, the miniſter's income will vary according as the prices of theſe two articles riſe or fall. When the butter and oil are at a high price, then the miniſter's ſtipend is high in proportion; but when the prices of theſe two articles fall, the value of the living is in proportion diminiſhed.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads, bridges, &c. are in the ſame ſtate here as in every other part of Shetland; that is to ſay, there are none.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—There are three churches, all in very good repair, in this extenſive miniſtry, where the miniſter officiates in rotation; firſt, at Neſting, ſecond Sabbath, Lunna,

na, third Sabbath, Whalſay; and, in the ſummer, he viſits the detached iſlands of Skerries, for a week in the year.

Agriculture.—The agriculture in this miniſtry is in the ſame wretched ſtate that it is in all the Shetland iſlands. The people direct their ſole attention to the fiſhing, and conſider the cultivation of the lands as only a ſecondary object.

Shipwrecks.—On the coaſts of this extenſive miniſtry ſhipwrecks often happen; and it ought to be mentioned, to the credit of the inhabitants, that the poor ſufferers have, on all occaſions, been treated with the greateſt humanity. One inſtance only, out of many that might be adduced, ſhall here be mentioned. In the year 1780, a Ruſſian frigate was wrecked on the iſland of Whalſay. Mr Bruce Stewart, the proprietor of that iſland, ordered immediately his tenants to fit out proper boats to ſave what lives could be ſaved. Unfortunately all their exertions, which were made at the riſk of their own lives, could ſave only five of the Ruſſian ſailors. Theſe five men were entertained by Mr Bruce at his hoſpitable manſion for ſeveral months, and ſent home to their native country. From the report of theſe five men, the Empreſs of Ruſſia gave orders to her ambaſſador at the Court of London, to write, in her name, a letter of thanks to Mr Bruce of Symbiſter; which letter I have ſeen. It does honour to her, as a Sovereign who deigns to intereſt herſelf in the kindneſs ſhown to her ſubjects in diſtreſs. Many more inſtances might be mentioned of the humanity ſhown by the inhabitants of this pariſh to ſailors in diſtreſs. Unfortunately, they have too many calls on their humanity in this way.

Means of Improvement.—One obſervation applies to this miniſtry, as well as to all the other pariſhes in Shetland Iſlands, namely,

namely, that they never can be made of ſuch importance to the Britiſh Empire as they might be, unleſs proper manufactures are introduced among them. Leaſes granted, of a proper duration, and manufacturing villages eſtabliſhed.

Concluſion.—It is hoped that the account of the miniſter of the pariſh will render it unneceſſary to make any uſe of this imperfect ſketch, which is only wrote in a hurry from mere memory, by a perſon who reſided there, in a public character, about the year 1781, but who could not think, with patience, that there ſhould be any blank in the Statiſtical Account of Scotland, if it was in his power to ſupply it.

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NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF LARGS*.

By a Friend to Statiſtical Inquiries.

Situation, &c.

THE pariſh of Largs is ſituated in the diſtrict of Cunninghame, one of the diviſions of the county of Ayr, at the northern extremity, about thirty miles due weſt from Glaſgow. It extends about nine miles from Kelly-burn, which ſeparates it on the north from the pariſh of Innerkip, in the ſhire of Renfrew, along the Frith of Clyde, which bounds it on the weſt, in a line nearly parallel with the Iſle of Bute, to the pariſh of Weſt Kilbride, which bounds it on the ſouth at a little diſtance from the village of Fairly. From the village of Largs, it extends about 7 or 8 miles to the hill of Stake, the ſummit of an extenſive ridge of hills running from Greenock to Kilwinning, and ſeparating the pariſh of Largs from the adjacent country on the eaſt. This circumſtance, occaſioned the common ſaying among the inhabitants of the inland pariſhes, "Out of the world, and into the Largs."

No pariſh in the weſt of Scotland, and few in the Highlands, can afford ſuch a variety of beautiful and romantic ſcenes.

* The Statiſtical Account of Largs, printed in the II. volume, being rather ſhort and defective, the valuable addition to it, herewith printed, was ſent by an intelligent and reſpectable friend to this great undertaking.

ſcenes. The hills, which begin to riſe in the neighbouring pariſhes of Greenock, Kilmacolm, Lochwinnoch, Kilbirny, and Dalry, meet in a kind of general ſummit, at the eaſtern boundary of Largs, from which they gradually deſcend as they approach the ſhore, till they terminate at laſt in a variety of abrupt declivities, ſome of which are almoſt perpendicular, as if part of their baſe had been torn away by force. Notwithſtanding the vaſt height of theſe hills, they are covered, during the greater part of the year, with verdure, and afford ſuch excellent paſture for ſheep, and ſome of them for larger cattle, as can hardly be found elſewhere in ſimilar ſituations.

The quantity of heath, even on the higheſt hills, is comparatively ſmall; and, from indiſputable marks it appears, that ſome of them have once been cultivated.

Soil, Agriculture, and Produce.—The whole extent of the pariſh of Largs may, from ſeveral ſurveys, none of which are entirely accurate, be eſtimated at 19,743 acres. The eſtate of Briſbane alone, with the fues belonging to it, contains 9,748 acres, 2 falls, and 27 perches. The arable lands in the pariſh, conſiſt of about 4200 acres, rather more than one fifth of the whole. The reſt of it is now wholly appropriated to paſture, though a far greater proportion bears evident marks of the plough. About a thouſand acres of the higher grounds are of little value; the reſt, however, is excellent for feeding ſheep and rearing young cattle. In the lower grounds a number of cattle are fattened, ſo as to find a ready market in Greenock and other neighbouring towns. One ſtock farm, the property of the Earl of Glaſgow, yields very near 500 l. yearly, neat rent; and ſeveral farmers, whoſe cattle are fed upon the paſture grounds only, make conſiderable quantities of butter and cheeſe.

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The ſoil of the arable grounds is of two kinds; that on the ſouth of Nodeſdale water, comprehending Lord Glaſgow's eſtate, and great part of Mr Briſbane's, is light and ſandy, producing tolerable crops with little culture, if the ſeaſon be not immoderately dry, whereas, that on the north ſide is a light red kind of earth lying on rocky foundations of the ſame colour, and inferior to the former, both for paſture and tillage.

Neither lime nor coals, worth working, have been diſcovered in the pariſh, and cannot be obtained from any place nearer than Stevenſon, which is about 11 miles diſtant from the ſouth end of the pariſh. Lime, therefore, as it can only be procured at great expence, is but little uſed. The moſt common manure is a mixture of ſea-weed and dung, or dung itſelf, where ſea-weed cannot be obtained.

The fields thus improved, and after lying five or ſix years in paſture, yield tolerable crops; and though the quantity of oats and barley, produced by theſe means, is, in general leſs, than in ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes, the meal is generally equal; a quarter of oats yielding generally 20 pecks of meal, ſometimes more. The great obſtacle to any conſiderable improvements in agriculture is a ſpecies of traffic in horſes peculiar to this pariſh.

Farmers, mechanics, and even ſervants, who can afford to buy a horſe, are engaged in it. Some individuals have from 10 to a dozen of horſes, ſome of them worth 15 l. or 20 l. for the purpoſe of hiring them to the farmers in the neighbouring pariſhes, from 20 to 30 miles round. They are uſually let out from a guinea to 40 s. according to their quality, from the firſt of February, ſometimes to the 24th of March, but moſt commonly to the 10th of April, when they are all returned. Previous to this period, there are few horſes in the whole pariſh; but after it there are ſo many in

every part of it as are ſufficient for the purpoſe of plowing, harrowing, and performing all the operations of huſbandry in two or three weeks. They are afterwards either turned looſe into the higher grounds, or let out for hire during the ſummer ſeaſon.

Another practice, which operates as an obſtacle to agriculture, is that of importing oats from Ireland and the adjacent iſlands, and manufacturing them at home. This ſupplies the inhabitants with plenty. The ſurplus finds a ready market in Greenock, and the refuſe contributes to feed the horſes.

Unleſs the former of theſe practices, which is, in ſome meaſure, encouraged by the latter, be abandoned, conſiderable improvements in agriculture can hardly be expected, and the nature of the ſoil can ſcarcely admit of great improvements.

The arable grounds yield, in general, tolerable crops of oats and barley; they rival every other in producing great quantities of potatoes, and of the beſt quality. The orchards are, indeed, inferior; but their gardens, in general, ſuperior to moſt in the ſame latitude.

An attempt to reclaim ſome of the lands in the north end of the pariſh, which are covered with heath, might be worth the experiment, as they are not ſo high as to preclude all hopes of ſucceſs.

The old Scotch plough is generally uſed. Mr Hill at Kelburn uſes the chain-plough, with Small's improved mould-board.

Population.—Largs, though an extenſive pariſh, does not contain a great proportion of arable ground. It has no commerce, except a ſhare in the coaſting trade. It contains but few inhabitants. According to an accurate calculation made lately,

lately, there are, in the village of Largs, Men 243, Women 259, in all 502.

	Men.	*Women.*	*Total.*
Fairly	60	72	132
Country parts	171	222	391
Total - - -			1025
Number of females more than males			77

In the year 1756, the inhabitants were ſaid to have been 1164. There has ſince been a decreaſe, owing to ſeveral ſmall farms being comprehended in greater ones, and a number evacuated to enlarge the plantations at Kelburn.

From accurate information, 51 perſons have left the pariſh ſince 1791, more than have ſettled in it during that period.

In the village of Largs there are,

Surgeon - - - -	1
Weavers - - - -	70
Carpenters - - - -	13
Cordwainers - - - -	7
Taylors - - - -	8
Smiths - - - -	6
Coopers - - - -	6
Maſons - - - - -	5
Sailors - - - -	7
Butchers - - - -	2
Inn-keeper - - - -	1
Ale-houſes - - - -	4
Carriers - - - - -	2 *

In the village of Fairly,

Inn-keeper - - -	1
	Taylor

* There are two Packets to Glaſgow belonging to Largs,

Taylor	1
Weavers	6
Carpenters	4
Smiths	1
Cooper	1
Shoemakers	2
Sailors	5
Ale-houſes	3

Air and Climate.—As the pariſh lies near the ſea, and is ſurrounded by very high hills, it has generally its full proportion of rain, which is very ſerviceable to the light ſandy ſoil, of which the greateſt part of the pariſh conſiſts.

The air at Largs is commonly pure. The thick fogs which often ſurround Glaſgow, Paiſley, and the adjacent country, frequently cover the hills, but ſeldom viſit the low countries. In time of froſt, this circumſtance is peculiarly remarkable, while in other places the air is thick and hazy, here the ſky is clear and ſerene. Many of the ſickly inhabitants of Glaſgow and Paiſley have felt ſenſible advantages from the air of Largs; ſome of them have been entirely recovered, and yet the pariſh affords, comparatively, few inſtances of longevity.

The chief old perſons in it are,	Age.
William Crawford	88
James Martin, Largs	85
Robert Adam, Kipping-burn	84
Alexander Hair, Outer-wards	87

In 1754, James Hendry died at Tourgill, aged 103 years. But if the inhabitants of Largs do not live longer than thoſe

of other parishes, they certainly enjoy better health. Medical assistance is seldom necessary, unless for those who have been infected elsewhere.

Cattle.—Owing to a circumstance formerly mentioned, there are probably more horses in this parish than in most others of the same extent. As they are continually changing their pastures, and frequently their owners, it is impossible to calculate their number with precision. From the most accurate and authentic information, there are at present in the parish,

309 horses
2009 black cattle
3460 sheep.

The sheep are mostly of the Galloway breed. A few of the larger kind of English sheep have been lately tried, and have turned to good account.

The wool is generally sold to the people of Kilmarnock, from 6 s. to 12 s. per stone, and about 570 stone is sold annually.

It may be added, that some horses and black cattle are fed in Kelburn parks after the first stock is removed.

Roads, &c.—The great road from Glasgow to Port-Patrick runs through the whole extent of the parish. Formerly, it went over some high roads towards the north end of it; but, about five years ago, a new road was made from Skelmurly to Largs, along the shore. The expence of this is defrayed by a toll at Kelly-bridge, rented at 72 l. 15 s. The conversion of statute labour is 47 l. 10 s. The roads is kept in good repair; there are bridges upon it, three of which are lately built.

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The reſt of the pariſh, however, is in great want of roads. There is no private road, of any great extent, kept in even tolerable repair, except the road to Briſbane, which was made, and is ſtill kept in repair at the proprietor's expence, though it is the only communication with the upper end of the pariſh where it joins Kilmacolm.

It is propoſed to make two new roads; one over the hills, ſo as to communicate with Kilbirny on the eaſt, and Dalry on the ſouth eaſt, and another through to Kilmacolm on the north eaſt. Theſe improvements, which have been often talked of, but never executed, would add conſiderably to the value of the lands, and convenience of the inhabitants, by opening a communication with many parts of the adjacent country, at preſent, in a great meaſure, innacceſſible, except by foot paſſengers, or horſes accuſtomed to the roads. On the ſouth and north of the village of Largs are two large rivulets or burns. The water of Nodeſdale to the north, and Gogo to the ſouth.

Nodeſdale is a very impetuous ſtream. It runs through Mr Briſbane's pleaſure grounds, where it has often committed great depradations. Mr Briſbane has frequently endeavoured to imbank it, and has been at great pains and expence in raiſing mounds of earth to turn its courſe, but in vain.

As ſoon as the heavy rains come, it overcomes all obſtructions, and, running with unuſual impetuoſity through a light and gravely ſoil, has, in the courſe of a few years, deſtroyed many acres of land to the proprietor.

Fiſheries.—The ſalmon caught on this coaſt are of the beſt quality. Since the fiſhermen came from the north country great quantities have been caught, which are moſtly ſold at Greenock and Port-Glaſgow. The ſalmon fiſhing is at preſent rented at 27 l. Mr Briſbane's proportion is 20 l. The reſt is Lord Glaſgow's and Colonel Montgomery's.

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It would produce much more profit were they not diſperſed in ſo many places, and at ſuch a diſtance from each other.

Mackerel, haddocks, whitings, and cod, are caught on every bank in large quantities. A ſingle boat, with four or five hands, has been known to take twenty ſtone of them in a day. In 1793, when a number of boats were employed, it is computed, that, for the ſpace of a month, they took, at an average, 18 ſtone every day.

They are ſold, at the village of Largs, from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. per ſtone; and, when carried to Paiſley and the neighbouring towns, they bring at the rate of 3 s. 4 d.

Conſiderable quantities of herrings were formerly taken on this coaſt, and ſmaller quantities are ſtill taken at a little diſtance from it.

Proprietors.—The proprietors in this pariſh are, the Earl of Glaſgow, Thomas Briſbane of Briſbane, Colonel Hugh Montgomery of Skelmurly, William Blair of Blair, and Thomas King of Blackhouſe, beſides William Wilſon of Hailley, and Daniel Fraſer of Hangenheugh, who hold of the family of Briſbane, and thirteen feuers upon the eſtate of Briſbane.

Of the more conſiderable proprietors, Mr Briſbane of Briſbane is the only reſiding one.

There have been few changes of property in this pariſh. The lands of Kelburn have been in poſſeſſion of the Earl of Glaſgow's anceſtors upwards of 500 years.

Colonel Montgomery's anceſtor was a ſecond ſon of Alexander Lord Montgomery, who lived in 1440. They continued, in a direct male line, till the eldeſt daughter, and heireſs of Sir Robert Montgomery of Skelmurly, married Alexander Montgomery of Colsfield. She was mother to the preſent proprietor.

Mr

Mr Briſbane of Briſbane, chief of that name, of an ancient family in Renfrewſhire, has had ſome of the land he now poſſeſſes, belonging to the eſtate, upwards of 200 years.

About two years ago, the part of the late James Bannatan of Kelly, lying in this pariſh, was ſold, after having been upwards of 300 years in the family. The ſmall property of Hailley, the poſſeſſion of Mr William Wilſon, has belonged to his forefathers ſince 1516, as appears by a ſeiſine of Alexander Maſter of Semple to James Wilſon.

Valuation, &c.—The valuation of this pariſh is 3801l. Scotch. The real value is about 3500 l. Sterling.

The value of land has riſen conſiderably of late.

In 1754, the parks of Kelburn rented - L. 149 6 3
In the year 1794 - - - - 471 5 0

There is a ſmall incloſure, called Fairley Mill Park, containing about 9 acres, 2 of which are very bad paſture; it gives 41 l. yearly rent.

Hangenheugh and Routdonburn, feu from Briſbane eſtate, rented in 1762 at - - - L. 9 0 0
In 1794, at - - - - - L. 52 0 0

Likewiſe the ſmall property of Hailley was, in 1764, rented at 9l.; yields, in 1794, 60 l. *per annum* to the proprietor, in ſetting it out in ſmall lots to the inhabitants of the village of Largs for potatoes.

Church, &c.—The church is an old building, erected before the Reformation, but at what period is uncertain. In the north ſide is an aile, containing an elegant monument, belonging to Colonel Montgomery of Skelmurly. It forms an arch and two compartments, ſupported by 18 pillars, of the Corinthian order, ſurmounted with cherubims. Above the arch is a ſmall pyramid, finiſhed at top with a globe. It

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is very richly carved, and with great taſte, conſidering the time in which it was built, namely, in 1636.

On the roof of the aile are painted the 12 ſigns of the zodiac, and ſeveral views of the houſe of Skelmurly; with the premature death of a lady of the family, who was killed by the kick of a horſe.

It is likewiſe adorned with ſeveral texts of Scripture, and various eſcutcheons of the different members of that ancient family.

Below is a vault, built by Sir Robert Montgomery, who, becoming ſerious in the after part of his life, repaired hither at night for devotional exerciſes; by theſe means burying himſelf as it were alive.

There are two niches in the walls for coffins; and Sir Robert himſelf, with his lady, Margaret Douglas, daughter to Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, anceſtor to the Duke of Queenſberry, lie in two leaden coffins.

She died in 1624. On Sir Robert's is the following inſcription:

Ipſe mitri praemortives fui: Fato funera,
Praeripui. Unicum, idque Caeſarium
Exemplar inter tot mortales ſecutus.

This plainly alludes to the Emperor Charles V. who had his funeral obſequies performed before his death.

Colonel Montgomery, the lineal deſcendent of Sir Robert, is patron; the Reverend Mr Stephen Rowan, miniſter.

At the Revolution and eſtabliſhment of the Church of Scotland, in 1689, Mr John Wilſon was ſettled. He died in 1699, aged 44. He was ſucceeded, in 1701, by Mr Andrew Cummin, who died in 1762, aged 88, in the 61ſt year of his miniſtry. Upon his death followed Mr Gilbert Lang, who had been ſettled as his aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor from 1756.

He died in 1791, in the 66th year of his age. His ſucceſſor is the preſent incumbent.

The ſtipend is 8 chalders, beſides half a chalder for communion elements, commuted for money according to the fiars of the College of Glaſgow.

The glebe is 7 acres and a half, arable, but no graſs, with a good manſe ſituated at about a quarter of a mile north of the church. The poors funds are 1032 l. beſides the weekly collections, which are, at an average, about 40 l. *per annum.*

On the roll there are 20 people, who receive from one guinea yearly to 4 l.; three weekly penſioners, at 2 s. 6 d. per week: beſides 21 poor, who receive ſmall ſums, as their exigencies require.

John Morrice of Craig, Eſq; who was born in this pariſh, and acquired an opulent fortune in the Weſt Indies, left 50 l. to the poor in 1788.

The late Counteſs-Dowager of Glaſgow, with that humanity and goodneſs which ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed her character, when ſhe left this pariſh in 1775, upon the death of her Lord, ordered 10 l. *per annum* to be diſtributed at the diſcretion of the miniſter.

The funds of the pariſh ſchool are liberal. Mr Hannibal Hall, ſurgeon at Dublin, a native of this pariſh, left to the ſchool 175 l. The maſter's ſalary is about 20 l. He has from 60 to 70 ſcholars, from whom he receives quarterly,

For reading - - -	1 s. 6 d.
For writing - - -	2 s.
Arithmetic - - -	2 s. 6 d.
Latin - - - -	3 s.

The preſent ſchoolmaſter is Mr John Macqueen. There are likewiſe two ſmaller ſchools at the ſouth and north ends of the pariſh, at the village of Fairley, and at Skelmurly.

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The greater number of the inhabitants are of the Eſtabliſhed Church. About 50 families are Burghers; and, to the honour of both parties, they live together in mutual amity, without exhibiting, in almoſt any inſtance, the ſmalleſt alienation of affection on account of different religious ſentiments.

Antiquities.—There are ſeveral caſtles, and houſes of conſiderable antiquity, in the pariſh. Skelmurly caſtle was built in 1502, and had a new addition in 1636.

The old caſtle of Knock was built above 300 years ago. It was the property of an ancient family, of the name of Fraſer, deſcended from John Fraſer, third ſon of Hugh Fraſer of Lovat, and his wife Iſabel, daughter to Sir David Weems of Weems. They had a grant of theſe lands from King Robert III. in 1402. It is now in ruins, and belongs to Mr Briſbane of Briſbane.

The caſtle of Fairley, formerly poſſeſſed by the ancient family of Fairley, ſaid to be deſcended from a natural ſon of King Robert II. is now alſo in ruins. It was built in 1521, and is now the property of the Earl of Glaſgow. The old part of Kilburn-houſe was built in 1581.

In Briſbane-houſe is an old chair, made of oak, dated 1357. The arms of the family are carved on the back, which are,

Sable, a cheveron, cheque or and gules between three cuſhions of the ſecond, with the initials of J. B. and E. H. This chair, being ſtill in excellent preſervation, may ſerve for many centuries to ſhow the name and family of Briſbane to ſucceeding generations.

There are two moats, or mounds of earth, at each end of the village of Largs, of that kind called Law-hills, at the diſtance of four miles up the water of Nodeſdale, at a place called Tourgill.

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There is one of a ſimilar appearance, but much larger; it is now generally thought to be natural.

On the top of the Knock-hill is the veſtige of a ſmall camp, with three regular entrenchments. Above Hailley, and directly oppoſite to the camp juſt mentioned, about the diſtance of three miles, are the remains of an ancient fortification, which is ſtill called the Caſtle-hill.

There are likewiſe ſeveral *tumuli* in the pariſh, generally believed to have been raiſed after the battle of Largs, over the bodies of the ſlain. This battle was fought in the reign of King Alexander III. in 1263, between the Scots and Norwegians. The Scotch army was commanded by Alexander Stewart, grandfather to the firſt Monarch of that family. The Norwegians or Danes, under Haco their King, were routed with great ſlaughter, and many of them taken priſoners. Haco himſelf eſcaped, with great difficulty, to his ſhips.

The field of battle is ſtill ſhown. A large plain, to the ſouthward of the village of Largs, is ſuppoſed to have been the ſcene of action. Cairns of ſtones were on it, formed, it was ſaid, over pits, into which the bodies of the ſlain were thrown. A courſe granite ſtone, about 10 feet high, ſtood in the centre of this field, ſuppoſed to be erected over the body of a chieftain. It has now fallen down.

The Earl of Glaſgow and Mr Briſbane had, each of them, Daniſh axes found in the field. Mr Briſbane preſented one of them to the Society of Antiquarians for Scotland.

Mr Wilſon of Hailley, having occaſion for ſtones to incloſe part of his grounds in the year 1772, opened a ſmall hill, called Margaret's Law, ſuppoſed to be natural, but found to be a collection of ſtones, containing upwards of 15,000 cart loads; in the centre of which were diſcovered five ſtone coffins, two of them containing five ſculls each, with

with other human bones, and ſeveral earthen urns. It is generally believed they had been there ſince the battle of Largs. The name *Hailley* ſeems to give countenance to this conjecture, being derived from the old Saxon word *had il*, a grave.

In the pariſh of Dalry, on the ſouth-eaſt boundary of Largs, is a farm, called *Camp-hill*, where the Scotch army is ſaid to have been encamped previous to the engagement.

Between that and the village of Largs is Routdonburn, ſuppoſed to derive its name from a detachment of Haco's army being routed there; and *Don.* is a contraction for Dane. What renders this more probable is, that, on the bank of the Routdonburn, is a large cairn of ſtones; upon removing part of which, lately, a ſtone coffin was found. Between that and the ſea is Burly-gate; a little lower, in the Earl of Glaſgow's plantations, is Killing-craig; and farther ſouthward is Kipping-burn, where it is ſaid, a number of the flying Danes were met by Sir Robert Boyd, anceſtor to the Earl of Kilmarnock, afterwards the friend and confident of the famous King Robert Bruce, and put to the ſword.

Theſe names are a kind of confirmation of a battle having happened at this place.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The inhabitants of this pariſh are, in general, ſober, induſtrious, and economical. Though they enjoy very few conveniencies for making money, many of them are poſſeſſed of conſiderable ſums.

Almoſt all of them ſtudy to provide for futurity; and thus they are enabled to make the moſt of their ſituation. Accordingly, they are in general richer than many in the adjacent pariſhes, whoſe advantages are greater.

The plague viſited Largs in 1644, and carried off great numbers; among others, Mr Alexander Smith, then miniſter of the pariſh.

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There is a tradition, that, before his death, he aſſerte that he ſhould be the laſt who would die of that diſeaſ which happened accordingly *.

At the Outterwards, a farm in the north-eaſt extremit of Briſbane eſtate, on a ſmall holm, lying on the water o Nodeſdale, were diſcovered the foundations of ſeveral ſmal buildings, ſaid to be the remains of huts, to which the inha bitants of the village of Largs, and adjacent country, retire to avoid the infection. There is in Largs a weekly marke on Thurſdays, and four annual fairs, the moſt remarkabl of which is St Columba's day, vulgarly called *Comb's day* which is held on the ſecond Tueſday of June.

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* His tomb is ſtill to be ſeen, about half a mile above Briſ bane-houſe, with the following inſcription on a plain ſtone, in which, it is ſaid, there is an alluſion to the forementioned tradition, round the edge.—Here lyeth the Reverend Alexander Smith, miniſter of Largs, a faithful miniſter of the goſpel, removed by the peſtilence 1644.

INSCRIPTION.

Conditus in
Tumulo hoc jaceo
Inviniſque
Senexque; nempe
Annis juvenis,
Sed pietate
Senex, Divins
Eloguio, caeleſ-
tia dogmata
Vide abſterſi
Tenebras, meno-
tibus ore tonans
Attonilogue
Haeſil animo
Per vera malo-
rum colluvies,
Verbis improba
Facto meis.

This fair is famous over the weſt of Scotland, and continues from Monday to Thurſday. Great numbers of people, from 40 or 50 miles round, reſort to it, ſome for buſineſs, and ſome for pleaſure. Upwards of 100 boats are often to be ſeen, on this occaſion, riding in the Bay.

The whole week is a kind of jubilee to the inhabitants, and a ſcene of diverſion to others.

Such a vaſt multitude cannot be accommodated with beds; and the Highlanders, in particular, do not ſeem to think ſuch accommodation neceſſary. They ſpend the whole night in ruſtic ſports, carouſing and dancing on the green to the ſound of the bagpipe. Every one who chooſes is allowed to join in this, which forms their principal amuſement.

The candidates for the dance are generally ſo numerous, that it is kept up without intermiſſion during the whole time of the fair.

This was formerly the general meeting place of Highlanders and Lowlanders, for the purpoſe of exchanging the commodities which each of them could ſpare for others of greater utility.

Since ſhops have been opened, and pedlars have viſited the different iſlands, this fair has gradually decreaſed; it is ſtill, however, better frequented than any in the country. Few ſcenes can afford objects more worthy of attention to the philoſopher, who wiſhes to contemplate human nature in its ſimpleſt and moſt undiſguiſed forms, or to the benevolent man, who rejoices to ſee that a great part of human happineſs belongs to the virtuous poor.

Concluſion.—Fairley road is one of the moſt convenient in the Frith of Clyde. Veſſels of any burthen may ride in it at all ſeaſons, and looſe from it with any wind.

Oppoſite

Oppoſite the village of Largs, the water is ſeveral fathoms deep almoſt at the very ſhore. The inhabitants have generally a taſte for the ſea; and many of them have money which might be employed to good purpoſe in trade.

All circumſtances contribute to render Largs proper for a ſea-port town. The only obſtacles are, the want of a harbour, and good roads through the country, to facilitate the conveyance of goods by land. Were theſe to be removed, ſome kind of manufacture to be eſtabliſhed, and an act of Parliament procured for the roads, levying harbour dues, &c. the numbers and wealth of the inhabitants would at once be increaſed; and this would operate as a ſtimulus to the improvement of the ſoil. A place poſſeſſing ſo many beauties and natural advantages, with the addition of trade and manufactures, would have inducements not only to retain the number of inhabitants, but to allure others to ſettle there. If the pariſh, however, has not the advantage of more opulent diſtricts, in trade, manufactures, and commerce, it is entirely free of the vices which luxury introduces; and, in this troubleſome and diſtracted period, the inhabitants, with the exception of a few individuals, may be truly ſaid both to fear God and honour their King.

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NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF LETHENDY.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By Mr LAURENCE BUTTER, *Miniſter.*

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of Lethendy is ſituated in the county of Perth, within the bounds of the ſynod of Perth and Stirling, and preſbytery of Dunkeld. Its extent, in a direct line from eaſt to weſt, is five miles; its greateſt breadth from ſouth to north, a mile and an half. It is bounded on the eaſt by the Burn of Lunan, which divides it from the pariſh of Blairgowrie, on the ſouth by Caputh, and on the weſt and north by Clunie, pariſhes. From the eaſtern extremity the ground riſes gently weſtward the whole length of the pariſh, except on the weſt point, where it falls ſuddenly for about half a mile. The river Tay formerly waſhed the ſouth weſt ſide of this pariſh. It has now retired ſouthward to the diſtance of nearly two miles, by cuts made at different periods, leaving behind it, in ſeveral places, viſible traces of its former courſe.

Soil and Climate.—The weſt half of the pariſh is a black mould inclining to a reddiſh clay, excepting ſome ſmall corners, exceedingly rich, and well adapted to all kinds of crops.

Towards the eaſt, the ſoil becomes blacker, more wet, and leſs productive. From the ſouthern expoſure of the pariſh, the climate is perhaps a little milder than that of the pariſhes immediately adjoining. The difference, however, is not material. Harveſt commences uſually in the beginning of September, and is over by the middle of October.

State of Agriculture.—Thirty years ago, the beſt lands in the pariſh were under ſheep paſture, and from a bad breed, and probably unſkilful management, yielded but a poor pittance to the proprietor, and but a very ſcanty ſubſiſtence to the tenant. Since that period, ſheep have been baniſhed entirely; the uſe of marl has been adopted; the waſte lands have been cultivated; the rental of the pariſh trebled; the condition of the tenants meliorated; and the face of the country entirely changed. But rapid as this improvement has been, it was much longer of having reached its preſent ſtate, than a judicious treatment of the ſoil would have brought it. This obſtruction is principally to be aſcribed, to a miſtake reſpecting the qualities of marl; and an error in the ſyſtem of cropping. Experience has now proved, that there is no nutritive quality in marl, that it acts only as a ſtimulus to the ſoil, which, if not enriched with different manure, it ſoon exhauſts, and reduces to a ſtate of abſolute ſterility. Want of attention to this circumſtance, conſiderably retarded the improvements in agriculture in this, as well as in many other parts of the country. The lands, when firſt marled, produced abundantly for ſeveral years without any other manure; and, while they continued to do ſo, were kept in a ſtate of conſtant tillage, and oats frequently ſown in perpetual ſucceſſion. From this improper management, the nutritious part of the ſoil was exhauſted, and required a reſt of

many

many years, in order to recruit its prolific powers. Even this ceſſation from tillage was not followed with any material advantage. Artificial graſſes were yet unknown; and the ground, thus reduced, derived but little nouriſhment from the natural and ſcanty productions of the ſoil. Theſe miſtakes, however, have been diſcovered, and their effects have now, in a good meaſure, ceaſed. The neceſſity of following marl with dung is admitted on all hands, and the introduction of artificial graſſes into the ſyſtem of cropping univerſally adopted.

But though this practice has been followed with very beneficial conſequences, there is yet much room for further improvement. Perhaps the rotation of crops is not the beſt that might be deviſed, and the proportion of green crop to that of grain is ſtill too ſmall. No uniform rotation is adopted in the pariſh, nor is it always invariable on the ſame farm. Where any thing like a ſyſtem is purſued, the following is the moſt general: Oats, barley, oats, green crop, or fallow; oats, barley with graſs ſeeds. Probably oats, green crop, barley with graſs ſeeds, would be a better rotation. The green crop in this pariſh conſiſts of potatoes, turnips, peaſe, lint, nearly in equal proportions. There has been no wheat ſown in this pariſh till within theſe few years, nor is it yet cultivated to any extent, though the ſoil is by no means unfavourable to it. This is partly owing to the influence of cuſtom, and the ſize of the farms. A great part of the pariſh is divided into ſmall farms of about ſix, eight, or ten acres. Theſe are generally occupied by tradeſmen, whoſe ideas are not ſufficiently enlarged for following the moſt approved modes of huſbandry, and who conſider their farms rather as a matter of convenience, than of profit. But if this circumſtance is leſs favourable to agricultural improvements; the

the loss is perhaps more than balanced by its beneficial influence upon population and morals. By dividing their time betwixt the labours of the field, and their occupations within doors, they are vigorous and healthy, their offspring accordingly are numerous and robust; they grow up in the habits of temperance and industry, and are strangers to those courses of dissipation and vice, to which the youth in great towns are ever exposed, and often fall a sacrifice.

Produce.—This parish produces, annually, 1614 bolls of oats, 1100 bolls of barley, 100 bolls of wheat, 100 bolls of pease, Linlithgow measure, 250 stone of lint, Amsterdam; and there are, besides, from 40 to 50 acres under potatoe and turnip crops. The returns from the seed in oats and barley, are from 5 to 8, in wheat from 10 to 12. The produce, in lint is from 20 to 25 stone per acre, and in potatoes from 40 to 60 bolls.

Woodlands.—There are in this parish from 50 to 60 acres of natural wood, consisting chiefly of oak, birch, and hazle, which, from its situation on the highest ground of the district, and being surrounded with rich corn fields, both varies and beautifies the scene. It is cut generally once in 20 years, and is valuable, chiefly on account of the bark. There is, besides this, a considerable quantity of ash around the farm houses, sufficient, perhaps, for supplying the parish with the implements of husbandry.

Live Stock.—Horses.—There are in this parish 104 horses. Since the introduction of two horse ploughs, the breed has been considerably improved. They are now of a middle size, and sell at from 12 l. to 18 l. each. A few more are reared in

in the pariſh than are neceſſary for the purpoſes of agriculture.

Black Cattle.—The number of black cattle is 308. They are rather of a ſmall ſize, and are generally ſold when between two and three years old, at from 3 l. to 5 l. each. The farmers depend, in ſome meaſure, on the ſale of their ſupernumerary horſes and cattle for the payment of their rents.

Rental.—The lands are valued in the ceſs books of the county at 1260 l. 12 s. Scotch. The real rent is 950 l. Sterling.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this pariſh, including all ages, is 367. The average number of births annually is 12. No regiſter of deaths has been kept. The population in 1755 was 346 ſouls; ſo that there is a ſmall increaſe.

Character of the People.—They are ſimple in their manners, frugal, induſtrious, and contented with their ſituation. Their religious ideas are ſomewhat confined, but their morals are unimpeachable. According to my information, nothing has occurred, in the memory of man, which has been the ſubject of a criminal proſecution. And, if their religious knowledge is not very extenſive, they are ſtill leſs verſant in political creeds. The ſpeculations of this nature, which have lately ſo much engaged the attention of mankind, and which have been diſcuſſed by all parties with ſo great warmth and uncharitableneſs, are here treated with much indifference. They indeed hear, and talk of reforms, and revolutions, and plots, and conſpiracies, and armed aſſociations, but without being the leaſt alarmed, and without feeling themſelves diſpoſed

poſed to take an active part in ſupport either of the one or of the other. To the war, however, in which we are engaged, though their limited information does not enable them to pronounce deciſively upon its juſtice or neceſſity, yet, animated with the love of their country, they ſincerely wiſh a favourable iſſue.

Mechanics.—There are in this pariſh 13 weavers, 5 joiners, 4 maſons, 2 ſhoemakers, 2 taylors, 2 blackſmiths, 2 coopers, and 2 flax-dreſſers.

Churches.—Notwithſtanding the ſmall ſize of this pariſh, it is provided with three churches; one belonging to the Eſtabliſhment, one to the Antiburgher Seceders, and one to the Engliſh Epiſcopals. Of theſe, the Eſtabliſhed Church is by far the worſt in point of ſtructure and accommodation. None of the heritors reſide in the pariſh, and conſequently leſs attention is paid to keep it in a ſtate of any decent repair. The other two are more in the ſtile of modern buildings, and much better fitted up for the accommodation of the hearers. The whole pariſh, however, are of the Eſtabliſhed Religion, excepting 24 Seceders, of whom alſo the greater part are women. The Engliſh Chapel was erected in this pariſh, merely from its being the moſt central ſituation for accommodating a few families in the neighbourhood.

Manſe, Glebe, and Living.—The manſe was built 8 years ago, and is a ſmall, but ſubſtantial houſe. It is remarkable for its being the ſubject of a long law-ſuit, in which the principal heritor inſiſted that the Court of Seſſion, in awarding a ſum for the building of a new manſe, could not exceed 1000 l. Scotch, by the act 1663. This queſtion was tried before the Houſe of Peers; and the judgment of the Court of

of Seſſion, whereby they had exceeded that ſum, was affirmed.

The glebe conſiſts of about 6 acres of rich arable land. The living of the eſtabliſhed clergyman is 61 bolls and 9 pecks of victual; 17 l. Sterling; 31 capons, 43 poultry; and the tenth of lint, lamb, and wool.

Schoolmaſter.—The proviſion for a ſchoolmaſter in this pariſh is 40 l. Scotch, with the ſchool fees, and 8 l. Scotch for acting as ſeſſion-clerk. Even this paltry ſum, it would ſeem, is reluctantly beſtowed. The laſt ſchoolmaſter died 10 years ago; the ſchool-houſe had been in ruins long before; and the heritors have never yet found it convenient to provide us either with one, or with the other; an irreparable loſs to the riſing generation. Some ſteps, however, will ſoon be taken, for having this opprobrious grievance effectually removed.

Poor.—There are no poor's rates eſtabliſhed in this pariſh. The weekly collections in the church, with the intereſt of a ſmall ſum of money, have hitherto been ſufficient for the ſupport of the poor. There are, at preſent, 3 only upon the roll, aged, infirm people; and even theſe require but a ſmall triſle, in addition to the fruits of their own induſtry. The average weekly collection is from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. Sterling.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—The wages of a man-ſervant are from 10 l. to 12 l. Sterling a year; of a woman-ſervant, from 4 l. to 5 l. with victuals. Day-labourers receive from 15 d. to 18 d. a day in ſummer, and about 1 s. in winter, without victuals. Oat-meal is here the principal food of the people, and generally ſells at 1 s. the peck. Butter

ſells

ſells at 9 d. per lib.; cheeſe at from 4 s. to 5 s. per ſtone, Amſterdam; beef and mutton at from 3 d. to 4 d. per lib.

Roads.—There are two roads which divide the pariſh nearly into four equal parts, one of which runs from eaſt to weſt, and the other from ſouth to north. Both of them have been long neglected, and are at preſent in a ſtate of wretched repair. In winter, they are often totally impaſſable for carriages of any kind. There is alſo a branch of road, preſently forming, leading along the ſouth-weſt ſide of this pariſh to the new bridge of Iſla, and to the turnpike road from thence to Perth, which will prove a conſiderable benefit to the country.

General Obſervations.—This pariſh is but ill provided in fuel. They carry their coal from Perth, at the diſtance nearly of 12 miles, and pay for them at the rate of 5 s. for every 40 ſtone weight. Peat-moſs, however, is more generally uſed, which they alſo bring from a conſiderable diſtance; and, taking into account the time and labour waſted in digging, drying, and carrying it home, is ſtill more expenſive than coal. There is indeed a ſmall quantity of moſs in the pariſh, but the liberty of making it into fuel, is confined entirely to the tenants of the proprietor.

Want of incloſures, is another diſadvantage this pariſh labours under. A ſmall part of the pariſh only is yet incloſed; and, from the ſmall ſize of the farms, and the want of ſpirit, and even ability in the tenants, it is not likely that this object will be ſoon accompliſhed. It is hoped the proprietors will ſee their own intereſt in lending them ſome aſſiſtance.

To make up, however, for theſe diſadvantages, we have an eaſy acceſs to the means of improving the ſoil. There is great ſtore of ſhell marl in the neighbouring pariſh of Kinloch,

loch, at the diſtance only of about two miles. This has contributed, in a great meaſure, to the preſent improved ſtate of the country. There is alſo marl in the pariſh; but, as it lies at ſome depth under moſs and water, and would be attended with ſome difficulty in draining, it has never been conſidered as of much utility. Equally near, in the pariſh of Caputh, there is an inexhauſtible ſtore of lime-ſtone, of a good quality. There are, at preſent, extenſive preparations making for burning it; and, notwithſtanding the diſtance from coal, it is expected it can be ſold ſo low as will enable the farmer to uſe it with advantage.

Long leaſes, and moderate rents, are likewiſe favourable circumſtances in this pariſh. The leaſes, in general, are for 19 years, and during the life of the holder after the expiration of that period. Some of them extend the length even of two lives. The rent of the beſt land in the pariſh does not exceed 20 s. and the greater part is below 15 s. per acre. Thus the tenants are in a good meaſure independent, and enjoy all the neceſſaries, and many of the comforts and conveniencies of life.

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF BALFRON.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.—SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.—PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON.)

By Mr JAMES JEFFREY, *Miniſter.*

Name, Extent, &c.

BALFRON is a word of Gaelic derivation, and is ſaid to ſignify "the Town of Sorrow." On what account the place obtained this name is not certainly known. The form of the pariſh is nearly an oblong ſquare. Its length, from eaſt to weſt, is ſomewhat more than 8 miles; and its breadth, from north to ſouth, from 1 to 2 miles. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Drymen, Killearn, Fintry, Gargunnock, and Kippen. The greater part of the grounds in this pariſh have the advantage of a fine ſouthern expoſure, riſing gradually from the water of Endrick.

Climate, Soil, &c.—The climate is wet, but not unhealthy, ſeveral of the inhabitants living to a great age; and there are few inſtances of epidemical diſeaſes. An epidemical fever, indeed, prevailed in the winter and ſpring of 1791, and carried off, in the village, upwards of 40 grown up people. But this mortality may be aſcribed, not ſo much to the unhealthineſs of the climate, as to the intemperance of the people at the time, and the damp ſtate of many new houſes,

houſes, which were occupied as ſoon as they were covered in, and plaſtered.

The ſoil is various. In ſome places it is light and ſandy, but, for the moſt part, wet and tilly.

Agriculture is here in a ſtate of infancy. The principal corn crop is oats. Barley is raiſed but in few places; and green crops are ſeldom attempted. Among the diſadvantages that have hitherto retarded agricultural improvements, may be reckoned the badneſs of the roads, the diſtance from foreign manure, and eſpecially the poverty of the greater part of the farmers to whom the land is at preſent let, in very ſmall portions. Their rents are from 5 l. to 35 l.; two or three of them about 70 l.; and one only up to 100 l. Sterling. But the diſadvantages under which the pariſh has hitherto laboured, are now in the way of being removed, or ſufficiently compenſated, by the extraordinary advantages ariſing from ſome new manufacturing eſtabliſhments; and, in as far as their influence has hitherto extended, to improvements in agriculture, as ſoil has appeared very ſuſceptible of melioration. There is abundant reaſon, indeed, for ſuppoſing, that a ſpirit for ſuch improvements will not be difficult to excite; for, of late, many ſubſtantial incloſures have been made in different parts of the pariſh, and particularly on the eſtate of Ballindalloch, where, in addition to theſe, there have been ſeveral plantations of wood formed, with an equal regard to beauty and utility.

Manufactures, &c.—About the beginning of the year 1789, Robert Dunmore, Eſq; of Ballindalloch, introduced a colony of cotton weavers into the pariſh. For theſe, he, at firſt, built a few houſes, at his own expence, in the neighbourhood of the church, and let them out at a ſmall yearly rent. This branch of manufacture was immediately carried

on

on to such an extent, that the value of goods manufactured, during the currency of the year 1792, amounted to the sum of 7676 l. Sterling.

In the spring of the year 1790, the public spirited exertions of Mr Dunmore having been already directed to this corner, he applied himself, with success, to procure the erection of a cotton mill in the neighbourhood of his new village; and a happy situation having been chosen on the banks of the water of Endrick, the work was carried on, through his means, with such astonishing dispatch, that in the month of June of the same year, yarn was spun in it. This branch of manufacture, in December 1792, gave employment to 390 people. Of these, 120 were men; 90 women; 180 children, from 6 to 16 years of age.

The cotton mill, thus erected, fully answered the purpose of extending and improving the village. Mr Dunmore readily feued out ground, to the new settlers, for the site of a house and garden, most commonly to the extent of a quarter of an acre, and, at first, upon such easy terms as to afford them ample encouragement; but here, as in many other cases, well directed liberality proved good policy; for the consequent prosperity of his village, and its manufactures, soon enabled him to raise the rate of his feu-duty from 2 l. to 4 l. per acre, without retarding the progress of building, or at all distressing the people. The houses, in general, are substantial. Most of them are covered with slate; and some of them are three stories high. The village now consists of 105 new houses, in which there are upwards of 430 rooms with fire places.

For the rapid rise, and increase of the population of this new village, we are partly indebted to a printfield and bleachfield, which Mr Dunmore, with the same patriotic views, procured to be established upon the opposite banks of the water

water of Endrick, and in the adjoining parish of Killearn; for, although the necessary works connected with these establishments, be separated from this parish by the river, yet almost all the people belonging to them have their dwelling-houses in the village of Balfron, and a considerable part of the grounds originally intended for carrying on the bleaching and printing operations, are on the Balfron side of the river.

Roads.—Till within these few years, the roads of this parish, during the winter months, were almost impassible; but in this respect also, we have derived much advantage from the introduction of our manufactures, and the spirited exertions of the gentlemen who has so laudably patronized them. In this particular line of improvement, indeed, the other landed proprietors, not immediately connected with the mercantile or manufacturing interests, readily afforded him the most liberal and manly support, and thereby materially promoted both the particular interests of the manufacturing establishments, and the general good of the country; in which view Peter Spiers, Esq; of Culcreuch, a considerable heritor in this parish, ought to be particularly mentioned with honour. In consequence of these exertions, a bridge of two arches, at Ballindalloch, has been thrown over the Endrick, which, when *swelled*, is a rapid and dangerous river. A turnpike road has been made from Glasgow to the village of Balfron, and leading from it into the military road between Stirling and Dumbarton. Another turnpike road has also been made, which, passing through the east end of this parish, leads from Kippen to Glasgow. Good cross roads are begun to be formed, and considerable progress has been made in them. Arches have been thrown over all the streams of water, and hollow places; so that there is now the certain prospect of having good roads through every part of the parish.

Population,

Population, &c.—The return to Dr Webſter in 1755, amounted to 755 ſouls. The population of the pariſh has been in a fluctuating ſtate, in ſo far as regards the village, ſince the year 1790, ſeldom remaining ſtationary for a ſingle week. In December 1792, there were in the pariſh 1381 ſouls. Of this number the village contained 981, and of theſe 930 were new ſettlers.

Of the above number, 805 were of the Eſtabliſhed Church, 459 Antiburgher Seceders, who have had a place of worſhip in the pariſh about 60 years, 64 Papiſts, 18 of the Relief Perſuaſion, 17 Cameronians, 9 Burgher Seceders, and 9 of the Church of England.

There were beſides about 200 people, including all ages, imported to the village at Whitſunday 1793, when the printing and bleaching commenced; ſo that, at that period, there were in the village about 1181, and in the pariſh 1581 ſouls.

The people employed at the printfield and bleachfield, are almoſt wholly of the Relief and Burgher Perſuaſion; and, beſides theſe already mentioned as reſiding in the village in December 1792, there were ſeveral families of the ſame perſuaſions who had given a temporary adherence to the Eſtabliſhed Church; but at Whitſunday 1793 being joined, all at once, by ſo many of their ſect, each party immediately ſet up a tent for themſelves, and have ever ſince been contending, with much animoſity, for the honour of making proſelytes. It is not, therefore, eaſy to aſcertain the preſent ſtate of the pariſh, with reſpect to ſectaries; and it is ſtill more difficult to ſay what it will be a few years hence.

Till very lately, there was no regular record kept of births, deaths, and marriages. From Whitſunday 1792 to Whitſunday 1793, there were 67 births, 46 deaths, and 30 marriages.

Church

Church and Stipend. Poor. School.—The manſe and offices were built new from the foundation in 1789, and the church, which is neat, and even elegant, in 1793. The value of the ſtipend is from 70 l. to 80 l. Sterling, according to the riſe or fall of grain, part of it being paid in meal and barley. The glebe conſiſts of about 18 acres. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron.

The poor have hitherto been well provided for, out of the collections made at the church, dues of mortcloths, and the intereſt of about 100 l. Sterling of poor's money; but that they will continue to be much longer ſo, out of theſe funds, conſidering the great influx of inhabitants, is very doubtful. There are no vagrant poor in the pariſh.

The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 l. Scotch, out of which he pays, annually, 2 l. Sterling for a perſon to teach a ſchool in a diſtant part of the pariſh. Beſides the pariſh dues, which are now pretty conſiderable, the ſchoolmaſter has ſomewhat more than an acre of land, originally fued by the ſeſſion for his behoof. This piece of ground was lately exchanged for an equal quantity, with much advantage to the ſchoolmaſter, by Mr Dunmore, as it ſtood in the way of ſome of his improvements. Upon the ground Mr Dunmore gave in exchange, he built, at his own expence, a neat and commodious ſchool room, with a lodging for the maſter, of 4 rooms, all under one roof.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Peat and turf, of which there are great abundance in the pariſh, were, previous to 1790, almoſt the only fuel uſed; but, ſince roads were made, coal is chiefly burnt, at leaſt by the people in the village. It is brought from Campſie or Baldernock, the carriage being upwards of ten miles. Red and white freeſtone are found in great plenty. There is alſo lime-ſtone. Repeated attempts have

have been made to find coal, of which, in the opinion of good judges, there are the moſt flattering appearances, tho' hitherto without ſucceſs. The price of labour, of all kinds, is of late advanced more than a third. In many inſtances, it is doubled. In the year 1787 the wages of an ordinary man ſervant were from 4 l. to 6 l. a-year. In 1794 they are from 8 l. to 10 l. A day labourer, in 1787, could have been hired for 7 d. or 8 d. per day; but in 1794 they require 1 s. or 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. From the vicinity of Glaſgow, and the eaſy acceſs to it, the price of proviſions is now, in a great meaſure, regulated by the Glaſgow market. There is no public houſe in the pariſh, excepting in the village, where there are a tolerably good inn, and two reſpectable public houſes. There are, beſides, a great many low public houſes, which deal only in whiſky, and which are productive of the worſt effects, both to the health and morals of the people.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF ELY.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE.—PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS.)

By Mr WILLIAM PAIRMAN, *Miniſter.*

Name, Situation, &c.

ELY, the modern name, ELIE or ELLIE, the old name, is ſo called from *A Liche*, in Gaelic, "Out of the ſea, "or out of the water," the town being built ſo near the ſea, that it waſhes the walls in ſome places. The houſes are preſerved with great difficulty by ſea dykes, notwithſtanding which, the ſea is yearly making great incroachments. If this derivation is a juſt one, and if it was built out of the ſea, the ſea is faſt reſuming what it gave.

Ely has a moſt pleaſant, dry, and healthy ſituation. The ſhore is ſandy, and ſhelving gradually; is remarkably well adapted for ſea-bathing; and is, of late, much reſorted to for that purpoſe. It is a mile and a half long, and about a mile broad. It is bounded by the pariſh of Newburn, on the weſt; by the pariſh of Kilconquhar, on the north; the pariſh of St Monance, on the eaſt; and the ſea, on the ſouth. It was disjoined from the extenſive pariſh of Kilconquhar about the year 1640.

Population.—The number of families in this parish is 152; of souls 620, which is nearly 4 to each family. The incumbent took an accurate list of the inhabitants about the year 1790, which may be relied on. The population in 1755 amounted to 642, consequently there is a decrease of 22.

The following is an abstract of Births, Burials, and Marriages, for 7 years, from October 1. 1783, being the time when the act commenced, granting to his Majesty a duty of 3 d. on each of these articles, which has since been repealed.

	Births.			*Burials.*			*Marriages.*
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total	
From Oct. 1. 1783 to Ditto 1784	6	14	20	4	10	14	7
From 1784 to 1785	19	11	30	17	13	30	5
—— 1785 to 1786	15	13	28	13	6	19	6
—— 1786 to 1787	7	14	21	9	11	20	4
—— 1787 to 1788	8	12	20	4	9	13	4
—— 1788 to 1789	11	10	21	5	6	11	9
—— 1789 to 1790	9	9	18	5	3	8	5
Total for 7 years	75	83	158	57	58	115	40
Average for each year	$10\frac{5}{7}$	$11\frac{6}{7}$	$22\frac{4}{7}$	$8\frac{1}{7}$	$8\frac{2}{7}$	$16\frac{3}{7}$	$7\frac{5}{7}$

From 158, the total number of births,
Take 115, the total burials,

Rem. 43, the total increase in 7 years; which, on an average, is only one more than 6 to a year.

Proprietors, &c.—Sir John Anstruther is patron of the [illegible] sole proprietor of the parish, one [illegible]

excepted, lately purchaſed by Captain Chriſtie of Balchriſtie.

Fiſheries.—There are 8 fiſhermen belonging to this pariſh. They have houſes, rent free, from Sir John Anſtruther, ſuperior of this place, on condition of their ſupplying the town of Ely with fiſh, at leaſt three times a week. They are well ſituated for carrying on the fiſheries, and, on the whole, are pretty ſucceſsful.

Lake.—There is a beautiful lake, called Kilconquhar Loch, bounded by that pariſh and Ely. In it there are plenty of pikes and eels. The fiſhing, however, is of no great value, and will naturally be more fully deſcribed in the Statiſtical Account of Kilconquhar.

Poor.—The ſeſſion here maintains all its poor. No beggars belong to the pariſh. There are about 20 regular penſioners, who receive a ſmall ſum monthly, beſides others who get charity occaſionally, as their wants require. The funds for their ſupport amount to about 50 l. *per annum.*

Incloſures.—The whole pariſh was incloſed with ditch and hedge by Sir John Anſtruther. The incloſures are kept in great order, and are very flouriſhing. The burgh acres, near the town, anno 1790, let at about 40 s. and the large farms at 30s. per acre, but have ſince riſen. Burgh acres now (anno 1795) let at between 50 s. and 60 s. the acre; and large farms between 40 s. and 50 s. Sir John Anſtruther lately let a farm, of near 100 acres, at 3 l. per acre.

Fuel.—Coal is the only fuel uſed here. There is an excellent coalwork, belonging to Sir John Anſtruther, 3 miles from

from this pariſh. The price of coals, independent of carriage, in 1790, was 3 s. for 75 ſtones, and 4 s. 4 d. for 75 ſtones of a better quality, but is now 4 s. for 75 ſtones of the firſt ſort, and 5 s. for the other.

Wages.—Men ſervants wages, beſides maintenance, were from 5 l. to 6 l. *per annum*, and women from 1 l. to 2 l. the half year. Day labourers got 10 d. and 1 s. per day, and carpenters 2 s. and 2 s. 6 d. Now, (anno 1795,) men ſervants are 7 l. and 8 l. yearly. Women 30 s. and 2 l. and no labourers are to be found under 1 s.

Harbour, &c.—There is an excellent harbour at Ely. It is the deepeſt in the Frith of Forth, Bruntiſland excepted. It has remarkably eaſy acceſs, and is perfectly ſafe. It is the reſort of more wind-bound veſſels, than any other harbour, perhaps, in Scotland. It has alſo been the means of ſaving many a ſhip, cargo, and ſeaman, that would otherwiſe have been driven out of the Frith; many of them being ſo poorly manned and proviſioned, that they never would have been able to regain the coaſt. This uſeful harbour, however, is going faſt to ruin. It were much to be wiſhed, that ſome public ſpirited perſon would recommend it to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce, or the Convention of Royal Burghs, to obtain ſome aid to put it in a better ſtate. An inconſiderable expence, in proportion to the importance and utility of the object, would completely repair it. It may be remarked, alſo, that the value of the ſhipping brought in, bears but a ſmall proportion to that of their cargoes, which are often grain and other periſhable commodities, that might ſuffer by being expoſed to a ſtorm, even though the ſhip were to weather it. There are, belonging to this place, ſeven ſquare rigged veſſels, carrying 1000 or 1100 tons, all employ-

ed

ed in foreign trade, and one ſloop uſed as a coaſter. Veſſels, of a conſiderable ſize, are built here. There is a manufacture of check and bed tikes, and alſo of ropes, by the Meſſrs Wood.

Eccleſiaſtic State.—Sir John Anſtruther is ſole patron of the church of Ely. There are a few Seceders, Independents, and Bereans; but the great body of the people belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church. The ſtipend of Ely is 80 l. old ſtipend, and 20 l. lately given voluntarily by Sir John Anſtruther, in all 100 l. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 11 l. Part of the pariſh lies in the very heart of Kilconquhar pariſh, owing to this, that at the disjunction, the proprietor of Ely wiſhed all belonging to that barony to be in the pariſh.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Near the town of Ely, is the cave of M'Duff, Thane of Fife, a ſtupendous arch, in the face of Kincraig rocks, fronting the ſea. In this place, Macduff hid and defended himſelf, by a fortification, againſt his purſuers, when he was flying from M'Beath, to the King's ſon, Malcolm, in England. The inhabitants of Earlsferry, (ſo called from Earl M'Duff,) ferried him over to North Berwick; and out of gratitude, when the King's ſon was reſtored, he got the town made a Royal Borough, which it ſtill is, and retains all its privileges, but that of ſending a member to Parliament, which privilege it loſt, owing to its being unable to maintain its member, and its having petitioned to be relieved from the burden. It is in the ſame ſituation with Falkland, Newburgh, and ſome other towns in Scotland. Tradition ſays, that, among other things, Macduff obtained this privilege from the King, that, on the application of a criminal, the town is obliged to ferry him over immediately, and dare not ferry over his purſuers, till he is half way over the Frith. This, it is ſaid, was claimed and granted

granted in the caſe of Carnegie and Douglas of Finhaven. A tumulus was opened here ſome years ago. In it were found ſeveral bones of a remarkably large ſize. They were ſent to the Muſaeum of the Society of Scottiſh Antiquaries. Real rubies have been got on the ſhore, which were gradually waſhed from the rocks. Some of them were ſent to Dr Black, Profeſſor of Chemiſtry in the Univerſity of Edinburgh.

To the eaſt end of the harbour of Ely, and at a ſmall diſtance from it, Wadehaven is ſituated; ſo named, it is ſaid, from General Wade, who recommended it to government as proper for a harbour. Others call it Wadd's Haven. How it got that name, if the right one, is not known. It is very large, and has deep water, in ſo much that it would contain the largeſt Men of War, drawing from 20 to 22 feet water.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF KILMANIVAIG.

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS.—PRESBYTERY OF ABERTARPH, AND SYNOD OF GLENELG.)

By Mr THOMAS ROSS, *Miniſter.*

Extent.

THE length of this pariſh, from ſouth to north, is about 60 miles, and its greateſt breadth 20. It is bounded by the pariſh of Kilmalie to the weſt, by Fortingal to the ſouth eaſt, by Laggan to the eaſt, by Glenelg and Kintail to the north, and by Boleſkine to the north eaſt. Its appearance is very much diverſified by ranges of lofty mountains towards the extremities, interſected by extenſive glens in different directions, and rapid rivers, which all diſcharge themſelves into the river Lochy, the common reſervoir, which runs into a branch of the Atlantic at Fort-William.

Climate.—From the vicinity of this pariſh to the weſtern ocean, and its being ſurrounded by very high mountains, which attract the clouds, the climate is extremely rainy; conſequently, the inhabitants, though in other reſpects healthy, are frequently troubled with the rheumatiſm.

Soil.

Soil.—Owing to the irregular ſurface, and vaſt extent of this pariſh, the ſoil is extremely various, but chiefly partakes of a light ſandy nature, and ſometimes of a black loam.

Agriculture—has made little progreſs in this country, as the whole pariſh is more ſuited to grazing, particularly ſheep-farming; another cauſe that may be aſſigned for this, is, that the wetneſs of the climate is an invincible bar to the raiſing of corn, ſufficient for the ſubſiſtence of the inhabitants. The only crops are barley, oats, and potatoes; the laſt of which is the ſtaple commodity. The number of ſheep in this pariſh amounts to about 60,000, that of black cattle to 1500, and the number of horſes may be computed at 500.

Population.—The number of inhabitants amounts to about 2400, of whom about 1200 are Proteſtants, and 1200 Roman Catholics. The return to Dr Webſter in 1755, was 1400 Papiſts, and 1595 Proteſtants, total 2995. The decreaſe conſequently is, at leaſt, 495 ſouls.

Wages and Prices.—Maſters of families in this country labour under difficulties in regard to ſervants, being obliged to give a ſhilling per day to the men, and a ſixpence to the women. The prices of moſt of the commodities of life are exceedingly extravagant, oat meal in particular, which, *communibus annis*, may be rated at 18 s. only 8 ſtones to the boll, and ſeed corn at the ſame price. Owing to the want of a public market, the price of beef and mutton cannot be aſcertained; none being nearer than that of Inverneſs.

Manners.—The ſame hoſpitality which characteriſed the ancient Caledonians, of whom they may be conſidered the genuine deſcendants, continues to be practiſed. Another qualification

qualification which they have derived from their anceſtors, and which they poſſeſs, in a conſiderable degree, is courage. Civilization and induſtry are making daily progreſs; and were they ſet upon a proper plan, and had due encouragement, they would become as flouriſhing as their local ſituation would permit. From the well known characters of the proprietors, little doubt can be entertained that this will be the caſe.

Language.—The Gaelic is the language of the natives, who ſpeak it in as great purity as in any part of the Highlands. Many of them underſtand the Engliſh language, and ſpeak it with accuracy.

Church.—This pariſh was formerly connected with the biſhoprick, and afterwards with the ſynod of Argyle, and preſbytery of Lorn, till the year 1724, when it was diſmembered from ſaid preſbytery, and united to thoſe pariſhes which now compoſe the preſbytery of Abertarph, and form a part of the ſynod of Glenelg. The miniſter's ſtipend is a thouſand pounds Scotch, though there is ſtill a great deal of unexhauſted tiends. There is neither manſe nor glebe; in place of which the heritors allow the preſent incumbent 20 l. Sterling yearly. There are two miſſionaries who are partly connected with this pariſh, and two Roman Catholic clergymen.

Schools.—There is one parochial ſchool here, with a ſalary of 15 l. Sterling *per annum*, and other perquiſites ariſing from baptiſms and marriages, together with ſchool-fees. There are generally from 20 to 50 ſcholars thoughout the year. In this pariſh are likewiſe two Society ſchools; but, owing to

the diſcontiguity of its ſeveral diſtricts, two other ſchools at leaſt, of the ſame deſcription, are neceſſary.

There are no funds for the poor, but the weekly collections.

Antiquities.—One of the greateſt antiquities of this pariſh is the old ruin of the Caſtle of Inverlochy. There was, at one time, a thriving borough, of the ſame name, adjacent to this building, which ſome of the old Scotch hiſtorians call the Emporium of the weſt of Scotland; but of this borough, there are now no other veſtiges, than ſome paved works in different places, which were probably the ſtreets of it. The caſtle has ſurvived the burgh, and now ſtands alone in ancient magnificence, after having ſeen the river Lochy, that formerly filled its ditches, run in another courſe, and outlived all hiſtory, and all tradition, of its own builder and age. It is a quadrangular building, with round towers at the angles, meaſuring 30 yards every way within the walls. The towers and ramparts are ſolidly built of ſtone and lime, 9 feet thick at the bottom, and drawing in to the thickneſs of 8 feet above. As to the height of the towers, they are not ſo entire as to ſhow what it was, nor are they all equally high, as it is probable they were all on a level at top and ſtanding upon uneven ground; the weſtern tower, which ſtood on the loweſt foundation, is the higheſt of them all, and the largeſt every way. It does not ſeem to have been leſs than 50 feet when it was all entire; and the reſt of the towers may probably have been about 40 feet in height. The rampart between them ſeems, in general, to be about 25, and from that to 30. The inner area ſeems to have been uncovered; but all the towers were, probably, roofed, by placing ſome cover above a joiſting of beams of wood, for which there are ſtill remaining ſome ſquare openings in the walls at the top, as well

well as below that, for the floors of the firſt and ſecond ſtories. Ten or 12 yards without the walls, the ditch begins, which ſurrounded the caſtle from 30 to 40 feet broad, and was filled with water from the river. The whole building, including the towers, covers about 1600 yards; and, within the outſide of the ditch, are 7000 ſquare yards, which is nearly an acre and a half of Engliſh meaſure.

At the hand gate, between the ſouth and eaſt towers, there are ſome remains of a building for the draw-bridge. The gate is 9 feet wide, and arched to the ſame height, with abutments of 14 feet at each ſide, to ſtrengthen it within. There was alſo another gate, directly oppoſite to this one, of nearly the ſame ſize, which probably might anſwer as a water-gate, and lead into the river. Beſides theſe two principal entries, three of the towers were provided with ſally ports, one from each tower, well contrived, and cloſe to the arrow-holes, which alſo flanked and defended them. To the loweſt ſtory of each tower, there is a door, leading in from the inner area of the caſtle, and a winding ſtair up to the ſecond ſtory through the heart of the wall. From the ſecond ſtory there is alſo a door on each ſide of every tower, leading up to the top of the rampart, a curtain wall between the towers. This wall had a parapet of ſtone, 2 feet thick, outſide and inſide, between which the troops might ſtand in ſecurity, and defend themſelves with miſſile weapons from the top of it. The whole was evidently defended by arrows. Every tower is built with loop holes on each ſide of it, ſo contrived as to flank the whole curtain of the rampart as far as the next tower. Theſe arrow-holes, or perpendicular ſlits in the walls, are well contrived to allow the archers a free aim, and defend them at the ſame time from any weapons without. The weſtern tower, which is always called the *Cumming's tower*, is 42 feet diameter over walls,

walls, and 24 feet within them. In the loweſt ſtory of it we find 3 arrow holes; in the ſecond ſtory 4; and in the third ſtory 8 or 9, all of them faced with free-ſtone, 2½ inches wide on the outſide, and extending to the breadth of 7 feet within, and 6 feet high. There is a chimney in the middle ſtory of each tower, large, and running through the wall obliquely, and alſo a window opening to the inner court of the building, and a door on each ſide, leading to the top of the adjoining walls, by means of which all the towers and ramparts could eaſily communicate with one another.

The middle ſtory of each tower ſeems to have been allotted for the principal people to occupy, as it was furniſhed with a ſpacious window and a chimney; but the lower ſtories had no light, except what came in by the arrow-holes, unleſs the door was open which led into the inner court. The whole building, ramparts, and towers, would require from 500 to 600 men to defend it, beſides reſerves; but the number of troops that might occupy it cannot be exactly known, as the curtains of the ramparts, outſide and inſide, are perforated in many places, probably for beams of wood to form a ſhade, under which men or cattle might lodge in ſafety.

From the name of the weſtern tower, it is probable that this caſtle was occupied by the Cummings in the time of Edward I. of England, when they were moſt powerful; and, previous to that period, by the Thanes of Lochaber, among others by the noted Bancho, predeceſſor of the race of Stewart. There is a tradition, that this caſtle was once a royal reſidence, and that the famous league betwixt Charles the Great of France, and Achaius King of Scots, had been ſigned there, on the part of the Scotch Monarch, about the laſt years of the 8th century. But this point can be beſt determined by thoſe who have acceſs to our ancient records.

What

What credit can we give to the conſtant diminution of the ſize of the human body, which authors are ſometimes fondly telling us of, when the arrow embraſures in this old ruin, are not an inch higher, than what would render them convenient for us, even at this day?

Another antiquity, which this pariſh can boaſt, is the famous parallel roads, one of the moſt ſtupendous monuments of human induſtry, and which well deſerve the attention of the antiquary. They are to be ſeen in the eaſtern part of this pariſh, on the declivities of ſteep and lofty mountains, which extend for 7 or 8 miles on each ſide of the water of Roy, in the direction of ſouth weſt and north-eaſt, and the opening betwixt which forms the valley that goes under the name of *Glenroy*. There were originally 3 lines of theſe roads on each ſide of the glen, each correſponding in height to the one oppoſite to it; the lowermoſt, however, is in ſome parts effaced, particularly on the ſouth ſide. They all run parallel to each other, and in an horizontal direction, humouring the windings of the mountains. Their dimenſions are various; in general, they are from 60 to 70 feet in breadth; and the diſtance betwixt two of them has been found to be about 180. Similar roads are likewiſe to be ſeen in two of the adjacent glens, but not in ſuch perfection.

As there is nothing left upon record reſpecting the time when, the perſons by whom, or the purpoſes for which theſe roads were conſtructed, we can only mention the common traditions concerning them. One is, that they were made by the Kings of Scotland, when the royal reſidence was in the caſtle of Inverlochy, which is not above 11 miles from the neareſt of them; and, what gives an appearance of truth to this tradition, in the opinion of thoſe who maintain it, is, that the conſtruction of theſe roads was ſo vaſt an undertaking, as could not be effected by any vaſſal or nobleman, however

however powerful. Another tradition, which is that of the natives, is, that they were made by the Fingalians; and, under the name of *Fingalian roads* *, they are ſtill known in this country. Of this the natives are convinced, from this circumſtance, that ſeveral of the hills of this glen have retained, from time immemorial, the names of ſome of the heroes of Fingal; ſuch as, the hill of Gaul, the ſon of Morni; that of Diarmid, and of Tillan; and likewiſe of Bran, the famous dog of Fingal, &c. Now, the popular belief cannot be conſidered as a direct proof of any opinion, yet we cannot help remarking, that the original tradition (which, in this caſe, has been always invariable) gives a ſtrong degree of credibility to the exiſtence of ſuch heroes, and renders it by no means improbable that theſe extraordinary roads have been the reſult of their labours. The purpoſe which they were deſigned to ſerve, ſeems to have been (agreeably to the common opinion) to facilitate the exerciſe of hunting; for, in ancient times, and indeed till within this century, the valley was covered with wood, which made it very difficult to purſue the deer, &c. and rendered certain avenues neceſſary for effecting this purpoſe; in corroboration of which opinion, it may be obſerved, that upon the ſides of the roads, there have been found ſome ſtakes fixed in the ground, probably the remains of the palings or fences, which in thoſe days were made uſe of to confine the game, till they were driven in upon a field, called *Dal-na-ſealg*, or hunting dale, where, the preſumption is, they were killed.

* They are likewiſe called the *Caſan*, i. e. *the roads*, by way of eminence. They prove that Sir Alexander Murray of Stanhope's celebrated plan for parallel canals, even in mountainous countries, is not impracticable.

NUM-

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF AUGHTERGAVEN.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By Mr WILLIAM CHALMERS, *Miniſter.*

Name, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh of Aughtergaven is ſituated in the ſhire of Perth, within the bounds of the ſynod of Perth and Stirling, and the preſbytery of Dunkeld. It is nine miles in length from eaſt to weſt, and about five miles in breadth from north to ſouth. Its general ſurface meaſures above 12,000 acres Scotch; but a great proportion of this conſiſts of hills and muirs, or waſte uncultivated ground. A ſmall neighbouring pariſh, called Logiebride, had formerly been annexed to Aughtergaven. No accounts can be had of the particular time when this annexation took place, from tradition, or from the records of preſbytery, in which the pariſh is always named Oughter, or Aughtergaven *. The people reſiding in the diſtricts that belonged to Logiebride pariſh continue to bury in the churchyard at Logiebride. A part of the church is yet ſtanding, and is uſed as a burying-ground by the family of Tullybelton. It is diſtant two Engliſh miles from Aughtergaven church. Above 50 years ago,

* Aughtergaven is a word of Celtic original. In Gaelic it is written Uachdarghamh-thir; and is ſaid to ſignify the upper part of the winter land.

ago, the ministers of Aughtergaven occasionally preached at Logiebride, but none of the parishioners remember of any minister residing there. The barony of Tullybeagles is included in this Statistical Account. It is within the bounds of the parish of Methven; but, from its proximity to Aughtergaven, the people residing in it have, for a long time, been accustomed to attend public worship at Aughtergaven church, and to receive church benefits from the ministers of that parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church of Aughtergaven is situated upon the slope of a rising ground, half an English mile eastward from the manse, and adjoining to the public road from Perth to Dunkeld. It is distant from Perth 8 miles and an half, and 6 miles and an half from Dunkeld. Like many old churches, it is of the form of a cross, and its length disproportioned to its breadth. At present, it is in very bad repair.

The manse was built in the year 1745, and has since been frequently repaired.

The stipend, lately augmented, is now, in money, 72 l. 19 s. 8 d Sterling, with 5 l. for communion elements, and victual 41 bolls 3 pecks, 2 pecks meal, and 10 bolls bear. The glebe consists of 4½ acres of ground. There is another glebe at Logiebride of much the same extent. The King is patron.

School.—The schoolmaster's salary is 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling. His salary as session-clerk is 2 l. Sterling; and he receives, of kirk dues, about 2 l. Sterling yearly. The school fees are, *per* quarter, 1 s. 6 d. for reading, 2 s. for writing and arithmetic, and for Latin, 2 s. 6 d. Sterling.

State

State of the Poor, and their Funds.—The poor are not numerous here, and are remarkably well provided for. The funds for their ſupport ariſe from collections in the church, money for mortcloths, dues on marriages and baptiſms, the rent of two lofts in the church, and the rent of a few acres of land belonging to the poor. The whole amounts to about 26 l. Sterling *per annum*. Out of this income, there is a diſtribution made, of ſupply to the poor, by the kirk-ſeſſion, every month. There are generally 6 or 8 paupers upon the liſt, who receive from 5 s. to 10 s. per month, according to their neceſſities. At an annual meeting of the kirk-ſeſſion, held in November, a few pounds are diſtributed in ſmall portions, for buying clothes, coals, or other neceſſaries, to any poor people of the pariſh who chuſe to apply for this aſſiſtance, and who are known to ſtand in need of it.

Population.—The preſent number of perſons in this pariſh is - - - - - - 1784
The return to Dr Webſter, in the year 1755, was 1677

Increaſe from the year 1755 to the year 1795 107

The following table ſhews the number of births, deaths, and marriages, entered in the pariſh regiſter for 10 years preceeding the year 1795.

Years.	*Births.*		*Total.*	*Deaths.*	*Marriages.*
	Males.	Females.			
1784	18	14	32	28	19
1785	24	16	40	12	16
1786	24	15	39	24	8
1787	21	27	48	27	4
1788	20	22	42	33	7

Years.	*Births.*		*Total.*	*Deaths.*	*Marriages.*
	Males.	Females.			
1789	14	19	33	17	9
1790	24	26	50	21	7
1791	20	16	36	18	6
1792	16	26	42	19	8
1793	18	24	42	21	9
1794	20	26	46	18	7

Occupations.

Farmers	40
Masons	10
Wrights	20
Turners	4
Coopers	2
Millars	4
Weavers	182
Shoemakers	14
Taylors	10
Cotton-spinners	30 or 40
Hat-dressers	6
Slaters	3
Day-labourers	30
Distillers	8
Vintners	3
Baker	1
Butcher	1

There are, in this parish, 914 males, 870 females, 370 families, or householders, including cottar's widows, &c. Of these families 280 are members of the Established Church, 80 are Seceders, 10 are of the Relief Congregation.

Heritors.

Heritors.—His Grace the Duke of Atholl, the Earl of Mansfield, George Stewart, Eſq; of Grandtully, and Robert Robertſon, Eſq; of Tullybelton, are the heritors of this pariſh.

The barony of Tullybeagles included, as before mentioned in this Statiſtical Account, belongs to the family of Aldie. The valued rent of the pariſh is about 5,000 l. Scotch money. None of the heritors reſide at preſent in the pariſh.

Improvements in Agriculture, &c.—The progreſs of improvements in agriculture, in the manufactures, roads, and buildings here, has been ſo rapid within theſe ten years paſt, that the country has aſſumed quite a different aſpect from what it had before that time. Though good crops of oats, barley, and flax, were long ago raiſed upon particular ſpots of ground, yet, till the year 1784, or 1785, there were not above three or four farms upon a regular plan, and very few neat farm ſteadings in the pariſh. The public road from Perth to Dunkeld paſſed through a large plantation of Scotch firs, and then along a track of bleak, wet, muir ground, which tended to impreſs travellers with a very unfavourable opinion of the adjacent country.

At preſent, there are from 20 to 30 regular farms, from 80 to 200 acres each; and, upon all of them, neat elegant houſes and offices covered with ſlate. The farmers find it their intereſt to adopt, in the management of their ground, the method recommended by the proprietors, of ſummer fallowing, and mixing, alternately, white and green crops. Till lately, a field of wheat was ſeldom to be ſeen here, now, ſeveral of the farmers ſow from 10 to 20 bolls of wheat yearly, and have excellent crops. To encourage them in raiſing this uſeful grain, the Duke of Atholl has erected a flour mill upon his eſtate in this pariſh.

A turnpike road from Perth to Dunkeld is now completed. In entering the parish, it takes a different direction from the old roads, and is conducted through the cultivated ground. Most of the new built houses and farm steads were designedly situated near it, or within view of it, which is not only extremely convenient for the farmers but also tends to decorate and enliven the appearance of the country.

In the year 1784, Mr Dempster of Dunnichen, Mr Graham of Fintray, along with several gentlemen in the mercantile line in Perth, feued some ground at Stanley from the Duke of Atholl, built a mill for spinning cotton, and soon after began to erect a village in its neighbourhood, upon a regular plan, for accommodating the people to be employed in this manufactory. At that time, only a few families dwelt near Stanley; and, except the land within the inclosures around Stanley House *, most part of it, thereabout, was almost in a state of nature. His Grace the Duke of Atholl took under his own management 250 acres of this land, inclosed it, built upon it an elegant farm stead; and, within the course of a few years, improved it so highly, that not long ago, this farm was let at the rate of 1 l. 5 s. per acre.

Near an hundred families now reside in the village at Stanley. Above 350 persons are employed about the cotton mill,—of this number 300 are women or children under 16 years of age. The boys and girls, though confined at work in the mill for many hours of the day, and, at times, during the night, are, in general, very healthy.

* Stanley House is beautifully situated upon the banks of the river Tay, in the eastern part of this parish. It was built by the late Lord Nairn. The family of Nairn had another elegant house near Loak, the ruins of which are yet to be seen. Their place of interment is in the south isle of Aughtergaven church.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is ſtill ample room for farther improvements in this pariſh. Large tracts of ground, where the ſoil is tolerably good, remain unimproved. The roads leading acroſs the country, from the public roads, are exceſſively bad, and, in winter, almoſt impaſſible. Ditches for draining the low wet lands, hedges, hedge-rows of trees, and clumps of planting, for affording ſhelter, are much wanted.

Many of the tenants, who have only ſmall poſſeſſions, are yet poorly accommodated as to lodging. This is partly their own fault; for, they certainly might, with a good deal of trouble, but without much expence, render their little habitations much more comfortable than they generally are. Numbers of them live together in ſmall villages, in very bad damp houſes, built of turf and ſtone, and thatched with ſtraw or heath. The diſeaſes moſt prevalent among them are rheumatiſm, deafneſs, and epidemic fevers.

There are ſeveral moſſes in the pariſh. From theſe the people are plentifully ſupplied with fuel. Of late, moſt of the farmers, inſtead of peat and turf, uſe coals which they bring from Perth, and ſometimes from the coal pits near Kinroſs. They find it more profitable to employ their ſervants and horſes in fallowing and improving their land, than in digging and driving peats during the ſummer.

Lime was firſt applied to the ground as a manure here about 30 years ago; but it was long after that time before it came to be generally uſed by the tenants.

Marl has been found in different places of the pariſh. A conſiderable quantity of it was lately dug out of a ſmall meadow upon the Duke of Atholl's eſtate, and ſold at a very moderate price. One of Lord Mansfield's tenants, who, by his activity and induſtry, has greatly forwarded ſome of the improvements here, extracted, at different times, ſome hundred

dred bolls of excellent marl from an extenſive meadow upon his farm.

A ſtratum of marl was alſo diſcovered, not long ago, in a hollow piece of ground, upon Mr Stewart of Grandtully's eſtate, but it is buried under a great depth of moſs.

Mr Robertſon of Tullybelton had the merit of introducing into this pariſh the new method of farming by ſummer fallowing, by a regular rotation of white and green crops, and ſowing graſs ſeeds.

Except one or two Druidical circles of large ſtones ſtanding on end, ſimilar to thoſe that are to be ſeen in many other parts of Scotland, there are no antiquities here worth mentioning.

NUM-

NUMBER XLI.

PARISH OF MOCHRUM.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON.—SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.)

By the Rev. JOHN STEVEN.

Name, Extent, &c.

CONCERNING the derivation of the name of this pariſh, no certain information has been obtained. It is ſituated in the county and preſbytery of Wigton, and ſynod of Galloway. Its greateſt length, from eaſt to weſt, being about 10 miles, and its greateſt breadth between 4 and 5 miles. It is bounded on the ſouth by the Bay of Luce, on the weſt by the pariſh of Old Luce, on the north by thoſe of Kirkowan and Kirkinner, and the eaſt by Glaſſerton.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The general appearance of the ſurface cannot be denominated either level or mountainous; it is partly both. The flats, however, are not extenſive, nor are the hills of great elevation; but, being intermixed with each other, at moderate diſtances, they exhibit a variety of proſpect not unpleaſing to the traveller, nor unprofitable to the owner. From the eaſtern boundary, along the Bay of Luce, for ſeveral miles, the ſoil, with a few exceptions, is excellent, being moſtly of a fine light, and in ſome places, a ſtrong deep loam. Approaching towards the centre of the pariſh,

pariſh, it becomes gradually more thin and ſtony, while a large extent, on the eaſt and weſt ſides, moſtly conſiſting of rocky eminences, or moſſy ſwamps and lakes, exhibits a bleak and barren proſpect, and is chiefly uſed for paſture. There are, however, ſcattered up and down in this bleak region, ſome ſmall pieces of good dry arable land. Owing, perhaps, to the general dryneſs of the ſoil, the openneſs of the country, and its fine expoſure to the ſea air, the climate is remarkably healthful. Fevers, or other violent diſeaſes, are not frequent, and are ſeldom mortal. The ſad ravage occaſioned by the ſmall pox is now much abated, by the prevailing practice of innoculation. The prejudices entertained by vulgar minds againſt this ſalutary expedient, though not totally extirpated, are gradually yielding to the advice and example of the better informed.

Many of the inhabitants attain to old age, in the enjoyment of good health and vigour. A woman died lately, who had completed her 105th year; and, excepting a little dulneſs of hearing, retained the uſe of her ſenſes and faculties unimpaired to the laſt.

Sea Coaſt.—A flat ſmooth gravel beach, moſtly about 50 yards wide, runs along from the eaſtern, till within a mile of the weſtern extremity of the pariſh, where it is intercepted by a ſteep rocky hill projecting into the ſea, and forming a bold inacceſſible ſhore. On this beach, the road which opens the communication between what are called the Makers and Reins of Galloway, which formerly was almoſt impaſſible for carriages, has, of late, been completely repaired, and carried along the brink of the foreſaid hill, cloſe by the ſea, in a direction now wonderfully level indeed; for, to effectuate this, ſuch deep caves were to fill up, and ſuch immenſe rocks to remove,

remove, as, not many years ago, would have been thought utterly impoſſible.

Parallel to the beach, the land, riſing ſuddenly, forms a ſteep bank or precipice, which renders the acceſs from the ſhore into the country, in many places, rather difficult. Though there are various little bays, or creeks, where ſmall boats can land, there is only one place called Portwilliam that deſerves the name of a harbour.

This port, though but ſmall, is commodious and ſafe, being well ſheltered by the land on the eaſt, north, and weſt ſides; and if a ſtrong wall or rampart, which has ſome time ſince been begun to defend the ſouth, was completed, it would afford a ſecure harbour to a number of veſſels, of at leaſt 200 tons burden.

Few things, it is believed, would be more advantageous to Mochrum, than the reparation of this port, becauſe, being the only one convenient for, or belonging to the pariſh, at it all exports and imports muſt be made. A little to the eaſtward of this, indeed, there is a ſmall natural baſon, called the Rue of Doury; but here the acceſs is difficult, the water ſhallow, and the anchorage inſecure, except in particular winds. At Portwilliam ſtands a neat ſmall village of the ſame name, which was founded by Sir William Maxwell of Monrieth, about 20 years ago, in honour of whom it is named. It conſiſts moſtly of one row of low houſes, well built, covered with ſlate, and fronting to the ſea.

The inhabitants of every deſcription are about 210. In 1788 a ſmall barrack-houſe was erected here for the accommodation of the military, and cuſtom-houſe officers occaſionally ſent to prevent the landing of ſmuggled goods. This meaſure ſeems to have been attended with complete ſucceſs, as neither box, anker, nor bale, though not unfrequent before, are now to be ſeen. The Bay of Luce every

where, but eſpecially near Portwilliam, abounds with variety of excellent fiſh, as ſalmon, herring, mackerel, cod, cyth, whiting, and others. Very few of the two firſt, but conſiderable quantities of all the reſt are ſometimes caught; and there is every reaſon to believe, that if this fiſhing was purſued with more induſtry and ſkill, it would abundantly reward the undertaking. To this, however, it muſt be allowed, that the general ſcarcity and high price of ſalt, is a very great diſcouragement. At preſent, the fiſhermen never attempt (what their circumſtances indeed cannot afford) to cure, or ſalt the fiſh, excepting a few for the uſe of their own families. The reſt are ſold as they are caught, at a ſhilling the ſtone. The price of ſalt is commonly 1 s. 6 d. a ſtone, and often not to be had at all. In the courſe of every 4 or 5 years, the kelp ſhore here, as it is called, is let by Sir William Maxwell the proprietor of it, for about 100 pounds; when a proportionable quantity of that article is manufactured, carried to the Engliſh market, and uſually ſold at 5 l. a ton.

Population.—There is, perhaps, no country pariſh in the county that has increaſed ſo much in population as Mochrum for theſe laſt 20 years. The inhabitants, who now amount to 1400, it is certain, did not exceed half the number previous to that period. This increaſe has been almoſt entirely effected on Sir William Maxwell's eſtate, who, carrying on extenſive plans of improvement upon the lands which he held in his own natural poſſeſſion, had occaſion to employ a number of additional labourers, and theſe happening to conſiſt moſtly of young, ſtout, newly married Iriſhmen, this prolific race ſoon contributed largely to the human ſtock.

Of the lands which he had occaſion to let, the worthy proprietor, too, very judiciouſly divided ſeveral large farms into a number of ſmall ones, and thereby put it in the power of many

many induſtrious perſons to become farmers, by obtaining poſſeſſions adapted to their circumſtances.

Nor can it be denied, that the illicit trade, for which this place was, till of late, ſo noted, however reprehenſible in itſelf, and generally hurtful, has contributed conſiderably, both to the increaſe of population, and the improvement of agriculture here.

The principal conductors of that buſineſs being chiefly men who had been bred to farming, in ſome of the beſt cultivated parts of Ayrſhire, were not ill qualified to give uſeful leſſons on that ſubject to the natives of Mochrum. On their ſettlement here, having great command of men, houſes, and money, the lands which they took in leaſe they improved with a degree of rapidity, and of ſucceſs, unknown before in this part of the country.

To ſee, in the courſe of two or three years, a number of excellent farm houſes and offices erected, where only a few miſerable huts ſtood before, theſe fields, which reſembled a healthy common neatly incloſed, ſubdivided, and covered with luxuriant crops of grown clover and rye-graſs, was a ſight not only new and ſtrange to the farmers of Mochrum, but alſo to thoſe of Galloway in general. Every perſon talked of, and admired the great and ſudden improvements of the Clone Company; for ſo were the ſmugglers denominated.

The good effects of ſuch an example in the pariſh were ſoon apparent. Raiſed, by a ſenſe of ſhame, for paſt ignorance and neglect, and encouraged by the proſpect of future gain, almoſt every farmer, who had either money, or length of leaſe, began to do ſomething towards meliorating his poſſeſſion.

Here, it may not be deemed impertinent to remark, that in this, as in moſt other diſtricts of Galloway, the great bars

to

to further improvement would ſeem to be, the ſhort leaſes and large farms.

Very few proprietors let their lands for more than 19 years, and theſe frequently in quantities of from 500 to 1000 Scotch acres, without fence or culture.

With ſuch a leaſe, it is pretty evident, that a poor farmer can do little to purpoſe, and that a rich one will not. The farmer, in vain, attempts to accompliſh, perhaps with a hundred pounds or two, what would require as many thouſands, and the latter ſoon becomes tired of laying out his money, where both principal and intereſt ſhall ſo ſoon be loſt, and prudently contents himſelf with ſuch ſlight and temporary meliorations as may beſt correſpond to the ſhort time which he is to enjoy them. Were the lands, and particularly thoſe that are unimproved, divided into 80 or 100 acres, more or leſs, according to the circumſtances and ſpirit of the farmer, and let for 25 or 30 years, there is reaſon to believe, that a great and happy change would ſoon be wrought on the face of this country.

Sir William Maxwell, indeed, as already obſerved, has let a part of his large eſtate in ſmall pieces, and the Earl of Galloway, who is alſo a proprietor here, is, of late, in uſe of granting leaſes for 21 years, and the tenant's lifetime. It would, therefore, only be neceſſary to unite the plans of the knight and the peer: Like two equal ſections of the ſame ſubject, they would form an efficient and harmonious whole.

That leaſes, during life, will be productive of better effects than any ordinary determined ſpace of time, is highly probable, when it is conſidered how naturally, and how fondly, almoſt every perſon indulges the hope of attaining to old age.

The

The ſimple undeſigning peaſant put thus in poſſeſſion, ſits not down to ſtudy tables of calculation, on the probabilities of life, the ſecurity or the danger that are ſuppoſed to attach to its ſucceſſive periods, but felicitates himſelf with his own adage, which he underſtands far better; that while a "ſet day ſoon comes," he ſhall remain unaffected by any ſuch events, and continue to enjoy, undiſturbed, the fruits of his labours to the end of a long life.

Manures and Tillage.—The arable and paſture lands of the pariſh, it is preſumed, may be nearly of equal extent; and there is not much natural meadow ground. The lands are let from 10 s. to 30 s. an acre, and no baſliework or ſervices are demanded. For many years paſt, conſiderable quantities of fine clay-marl have been dug in Sir William Maxwell's lands, 50 ſingle horſe cart-loads of which being laid on the acre, produced abundant crops of grain and graſs. This valuable treaſure appears now to be nearly exhauſted, or is become ſo deep and difficult to work as to exceed the expence of lime.

All the lime uſed here, which may be about 12,000 Carliſle buſhels annually, is imported burnt from Whithaven, at 1 s. 2 d. or 1 s. 3 d. a buſhel, of which 45, 50, 60, or more are put on the acre, according to the ability of the farmer, or the quality of the ſoil. Shell ſand is alſo brought hither, in ſmall veſſels, from the ferry town of Cree, at 2 s. 6 d. a ton, and of theſe 20 are uſually given to an acre, but this is only uſed upon lands ſituated near the ſhore, its great weight rendering it too expenſive to be carried far into the country. After the land has received one or other of theſe manures, or rather the ſtimulants, it is commonly plowed and ſown with oats for 2 years ſucceſſively, at the rate of 7 or 8 Wincheſter buſhels to the acre, and 5 or 6 ſeeds are the

uſual

uſual increaſe. The 3d year, every good farmer allows to each acre about 50 cart loads of dung, or ſea-weed, ſows on it 4 or 5 buſhels of bear, with 2 of rye-graſs, and 12 or 14 lbs. of red and white clover.

The ordinary produce of bear, upon land ſo treated, is from 10 to 14 ſeeds. The 4th year concludes the proceſs with a hay crop, the acre commonly yielding between 200 and 300 ſtones. The land is then turned into paſture, for 6 years at leaſt; and, when opened again, is generally dunged on the firſt plowing, and the ſame order of cropping obſerved as before. The oats, when properly cleaned, weigh about 38 lbs. and the bear 48 lbs. a buſhel.

Of the former, Mochrum annually exports about 6,000, and of the latter 10,800 buſhels.—The oats at 1 s. 10 d. and the bear at 2 s. 9 d.

This grain is chiefly carried to the markets of Liverpool and Whithaven, and ſometimes a little of it is taken to Greenock. Some two-rowed barley and wheat are raiſed; but of theſe the quantities are ſo ſmall, as ſcarcely to deſerve notice. It is a common obſervation here, that Galloway is not a wheat country, which is certainly true; but owing, perhaps, more to this than any other cauſe, that it is very little attended to, or ſown.

The harveſt uſually begins about the middle of Auguſt, and is finiſhed about the end of September.

Fallowing the ſoil is too ſeldom practiſed, and turnips are ſo rare a ſight, that no ſooner do they make their appearance in a field, than the neighbouring boys ſet upon them, like apples in an orchard, and eat or carry them away.

Servants' wages.—The ordinary wages given to a man ſervant are from 4 l. to 5 l. in the half year, the term for which they are all engaged, and to a woman ſervant from 30 s. to 2 l.

2 l. for the ſame period. Every conſiderable farmer keeps alſo at leaſt one cottar or yearly man with his family, to whom he gives a houſe and yard, meal and potatoes, or other emoluments, to the amount of 15 l. or 20 l. Of this laſt deſcription, the greater part are Iriſhmen, eſcaped from their country and their loom, and are commonly good hands with a ſpade or flail, but not dexterous in the management of horſes at the cart, or the plough.

The horſes, of which there are about 280 in the pariſh, are moſtly all of the draught kind, or are uſed for that purpoſe, and are partly bred here, and partly imported from Ireland. About 15 and 16 hands is their uſual height, and as many pounds their price. Unleſs in very ſtiff, or uncultivated lands, ſeldom more than two are put to a plough, and never more than one to a cart. The uſe of *tracers*, as they are called, ſtill ſo prevalent in many parts of Galloway, is totally exploded in Mochrum, becauſe, it is believed, that two horſes, put each to a cart, will do at leaſt one third more work, and with greater eaſe, than when yoked together in one. It is worthy of notice, that 20 years ago, there was only one cart in the pariſh belonging to a tenant, whereas there are now 170 of that deſcription.

The Scotch plough, improved, or the chain one, are chiefly uſed. The latter is preferred where the land is not ſtony, being eaſier drawn. The ploughman always drives the horſes for himſelf, when not more than two, and ſometimes even three, when yoked abreaſt. The farmers begin to plow in November, and finiſh by the end of February, when the ſeeds are ſown, which are commonly all in the ground in the courſe of five weeks after, if the ſeaſon has been favourable.

The horſes are generally fed with ſtraw, and two feeds of oats a-day, when they plow; and with rye-graſs, and three feeds, when they harrow the ground.

Black

Black Cattle.—The black cattle are not large, but very handſome, as thoſe bred in Galloway in general are. The whole number in the pariſh may be about 1500. Every farmer rears as many as he can, and no more thinks of fatting and killing a calf, than would an ancient inhabitant of Egypt.

The cattle are uſually ſold, at two years of age, for 5 l. a-head, to graziers or jobbers, and are moſtly all, ſooner or later, driven to the Engliſh markets.

As the chief quality regarded in a cow is to be a good breeder, ſo no great attention is paid to milk, or manufacturing of it into butter and cheeſe; yet of theſe articles enough are made for the uſe of the inhabitants.

Some of the farmers, however, from a laudable deſire of improving in this reſpect, have more than once introduced here the famous cows of Kyle. But, whether it was owing to a difference of paſture, of hard feeding, or of both, theſe were ſoon found to milk no better than the native breed; and, being leſs eſteemed in other reſpects, eſpecially on account of their being horned, very few of them are now to be ſeen. When the cows get old, they are ſold lean for between 3 l. and 4 l. except what are retained for the uſe of the pariſhioners; and theſe, when fatted, commonly weigh from 25 to 30 ſtones.

Sheep.—This pariſh has long been famous for excellent wool, on account of its ſtill retaining ſome of the ancient breed of the Galloway ſheep. Of theſe ſheep, the moſt diſtinguiſhing marks are, orange coloured face and legs, ſhort thick wool, and very ſmall ſize. When at full growth, and tolerably fat, the wedder would not exceed 30, nor the ewe 27 lib.; and it would require 18 or 20 of their fleeces to make a ſtone of 26½ lib.

Very

Very few, however, of this truly primitive breed, it is ſuppoſed, now remain; they have been either picked out, and ſold off in quantities to thoſe who were purſuing improvements in wool, or contaminated with the various other kinds of ſheep in the neighbourhood.

But, though thus evidently degenerating, the Mochrum wool (quantity and quality) is ſtill eſteemed the beſt in the county, and is generally ſold from 12s. to 14s. a ſtone, when it is carried to the manufactories of Kilmarnock and Glaſgow.

A few years ago, Lord Daer and Admiral Stewart purchaſed here ſome of the native ewes, in order to try a breed between them and Spaniſh, Shetland, and other rams; but both theſe public ſpirited noblemen were unfortunately cut off by death, while engaged in this and many other patriotic experiments for the improvement of their country.

The number of ſheep is conſiderably diminiſhed ſince the late improvements here. The whole ſtock, at preſent, is not more than 5000. Being very hurtful to young thorn hedges, they are, with great propriety, forbidden to be kept wherever the fields are incloſed with theſe. As they are, therefore, moſtly baniſhed to the moor-lands, they are neither large nor fat; but, when brought from thence, and fed on good paſture for a year, they improve greatly, and are accounted the very beſt of mutton. On their ordinary ſoil, the wedders are ſold, when 4 years of age, at 10s. a head, and are moſtly driven to Ayr or Glaſgow; and the ewes, as they become old, are killed for home conſumption.

Swine.—Almoſt every farmer keeps 2 or 3 pigs, and every houſeholder one; ſo that there is an abundance, if not an over abundance, of theſe animals. They are chiefly fed on potatoes and the offal of the kitchen, and ſold to Engliſh butchers, when a year old, at 30s. and 40s.

Curiosities.—Near by the church, which is situated about a mile right into the parish from Portwilliam, there is a pretty large earthen mound, quite entire, with a deep ditch or *fosse* round it.

On the eastern extremity of the sea coast, at the summit of a steep bank, there are very distinct remains of an Anglo-Saxon camp. And, within two miles of the western extremity, also hard by the shore, stand the ruins of a small manse and church, called *St Finian's Chapel*, probably from the famous Saint of that name.

In the middle of the moor-land appears an old tower or castle, whose walls are very strong, and almost entire; and, being nearly surrounded by lakes, when viewed at a distance it has a most curious and picturesque appearance, resembling much a large ship at sea.

It is called *the old Place of Mochrum;* and formerly belonged, together with a considerable estate contiguous to it, to an ancient family, of the name of *Dunbar*, who resided in it, were created Knights of Mochrum about a century ago, and still enjoy that title. But the castle and the property have now, for upwards of 60 years, been in possession of the Earl of Dumfries.

Plantations.—On these lands the noble Earl has lately begun to plant, in convenient places, considerable clumps of trees, which being at a good distance, and well sheltered from the sea, there is reason to hope they may do well; a circumstance much to be wished, as they would be both highly ornamental and useful in that part of the parish.

In Mochrum, or in no other part of Galloway, situated near, and exposed to the western ocean, do trees of any kind seem to thrive. Owing to this cause alone, Sir William Maxwell's extensive plantations, which have had every other advantage

advantage that either art or nature could beſtow, have made little progreſs, except in low ſituations, and not in ſight of the ſea. Wherever old Neptune gets but a peep at them, they ſoon begin to ſicken and to fade.

The lakes above mentioned, and ſeveral others in the pariſh, are ſtored with perch and trout, pike and eel, of which conſiderable quantities are caught at the proper ſeaſons.

There are no rivers, but plenty of burns and ſmall rivulets, as alſo of excellent ſprings, in Mochrum.

There are two corn mills, the one a very good, and the other a very bad one; and, as the farmers are not, in general, thirled to either, they are at no loſs which to prefer.

No manufactures have yet found their way here; but Sir William Maxwell has been propoſing to have one erected on ſome of his fine ſituations. The preſent number of mechanics, of every deſcription, is about 20.

Poor.—The liſt of the poor ſeldom exceeds 8 or 10, who are ſupported by begging through the pariſh, and by the Sundays collections at church, which annually amount to about 20 l.

The pariſh, however, is continually infeſted with foreign beggars, and eſpecially the Iriſh, who come over here in great numbers, as they ſay, "to viſit their friends;" a duty to which, it muſt be allowed, they are exceedingly attentive.

There is only one reſiding ſectary in the pariſh, who goes under the name of Antiburgher.

Schools.—A very neat ſchool-houſe was erected at the church 3 years ago, where 70 or 80 ſcholars uſually attend, and are taught reading Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mathematics, French, and Latin, by a very well qualified teacher, who has lately been procured. The quarterly

terly wages are from 2s. to 4s. according to what the youth are learning.

The preſent ſalary is very ſmall; but there is every hope that the good heritors, who have been ſo extremely indulgent to the pariſhioners in other reſpects, will ſoon augment it to ſomething that may be adequate to the ſupport of ſo uſeful a member of this ſociety.

Gentlemens Seats.—Of theſe there are none worthy of notice excepting Sir William Maxwell's, which is a very elegant and commodious edifice, only finiſhed about two years ago. It is ſituated on a gently riſing ground, near the eaſtern boundary of the pariſh, and a ſhort mile from the ſea. It has in front, at a ſmall diſtance, a beautiful lake of clear water, ſurrounded by a belt of thriving young planting; as alſo the old family caſtle, rearing its head amidſt a clump of lofty trees; while the oppoſite ſide commands a moſt extenſive and delightful view of the Bay of Luce, the Mull of Galloway, the Rock of Bigſcar, the Iſle of Man, and even the mountains of Cumberland and Morn, when the weather is clear.

Rental and Proprietors.—The groſs rental of the pariſh is about 5000 l.

Sir William Maxwell is by far the largeſt proprietor, his eſtate being nearly about one-third of the extent, and two-thirds of the value, of the whole ſurface.

Next to him follow the Earls of Dumfries, Galloway, and Selkirk, and a few private gentlemen.

Church.—The manſe and offices are very good, being all of late ſubſtantially rebuilt, and covered with ſlate; and an excellent new church was completed about 4 months ago.

The

The ſtipend, which is paid a part in money, and a part in victual, was augmented laſt year from about 75 l. to 100 l.; and the glebe, though rather of ſmall ſize, is of good quality.

The preſent incumbent was ordained in 1787, and has a wife and children.

NUM-

NUMBER XLII.

UNITED PARISHES OF WHITEKIRK AND TYNNINGHAME.

(COUNTY OF EAST LOTHIAN.—PRESBYTERY OF DUNBAR—SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDALE.)

By Mr JAMES WILLIAMSON, *junior of Whitekirk.*

Situation, Extent, Air, Soil, &c.

THESE parishes (which were united anno 1761) extend nearly 6 miles from south to north, and 4 from east to west. They are bounded by the parish of Dunbar on the south-east, by Preston on the south and south-west, by North Berwick on the west and north-west, and on the north and east by the Frith of Forth. The general appearance of the parish is flat. Behind the village of Whitekirk there is a hill, rather remarkable for the beautiful prospect it affords of the Frith of Forth, and country adjacent, than for its height. The climate is dry, pleasant, and healthful. The inhabitants ars much less subject to agues now than formerly. The soil varies in different parts of the parish; in general, it consists of rich gravelly loams, highly favourable to the most improved mode of agriculture.

River.—The river Tyne runs for about two miles through the southern part of the parish: It rises in the moor of Middleton; and, after a north-east course of nearly 30 miles, it discharges

diſcharges itſelf into the Frith of Forth in the eaſt part of this pariſh. The fiſh found in the Tyne are trout and gilſes, neither of which are remarkably plenty. A few ſalmon are ſometimes found, but they are very rare. The right of fiſhing the Tyne up to the Knowmill, and the ſea coaſt at its mouth, from within a cable's length of Weſtbarns burn to the water of Peffer, an extent of nearly two miles, belongs ſolely to the Earl of Haddington. A great number of ſeals are always to be ſeen ſwimming about the mouth of the river, which are thought with probability to be one cauſe of the ſcarcity of other fiſh. The tide flows about two miles up the water, and might be made navigable to that height at no great expence.

Agriculture, Wages, &c.—This pariſh, in general, is in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation. The turnip-huſbandry is now carried on to a great extent. About 100 ſcore of ſheep are annually fed on turnip, and all fed in ſtakes upon the ground. The ſheep generally fed are Highland wedders, which are bought in October for about 12 s. or 15 s. and ſold again, from February to May, at from 20 s. to 25 s. per head, and will then weigh from 12 to 16 pounds a quarter. The number of ſheep fed on graſs, during the ſummer, will be about 50 ſcore. There is alſo a conſiderable number of black cattle fed annually both on turnip and graſs. Few ſheep or oxen are reared in the pariſh, but the moſt of the farmers breed their own cows and horſes. The kinds of grain commonly raiſed are, wheat, barley, oats, beans, and peaſe. There is alſo a great quantity of turnip and ſown graſs raiſed annually, and potatoes ſufficient to ſupply the pariſh. Each farmer raiſes a few acres of flax for his own family and ſervants. The uſual and moſt approved rotation on thoſe lands which are adapted for turnip-huſbandry, is,

1ſt,

1ſt, Turnip; 2d, Early oats or barley, but oats preferred; 3d, Clover one year, paſtured or cut; 4th, Wheat, dunged on the clover. Lime uſed once in 19 or 21 years. Upon ſtrong clay ſoils the uſual rotation is, 1ſt, Fallow, dunged; 2d, Wheat or barley; 3d, Clover or beans, alternately; 4th, Oats or wheat. The number of acres in the pariſh is conſiderably above 5000, of which about 3000 are in tillage. There are 16 farms, which vary in ſize, from about 100 to 380 acres. The rent of farms is much increaſed within theſe few years, ſome of them having tripled their former rent. The lands are generally incloſed; and the farmers are perfectly convinced of the very great advantage of incloſures. The price of labour has alſo been increaſing for theſe ſome years paſt. A ploughman's wages are from 7l. to 8l. 10s. a year, a day-labourer's from 14d. to 15d. per day. Shearers wages may be about 1s. a day, but they are alſo increaſing. Women ſervants wages are from 3l. to 3l. 10s. yearly.

Woods.—When Thomas, Sixth Earl of Haddington, came to reſide at Tynninghame, anno 1700, there were not above 14 acres of planting upon the eſtate, it being ſuppoſed that no trees could grow becauſe of the ſea air and north-eaſt winds. This Earl, at firſt, either believed the common opinion, or had no turn for planting; but his Lady, being an active woman, began; and, when her ſucceſs was obſerved, the Earl entered keenly into her plans. In 1707, the incloſing and planting of the moor of Tynninghame were begun, to which they at that time gave the name of *Binning Wood*. Prior to that period, it was common to ſome of his Lordſhip's tenants and a neighbouring gentleman, excepting a ſmall part of it, for which one of the tenants paid a trifling rent. After the planting of Binning Wood, his Lordſhip incloſed

incloſed and divided his fields with ſtripes of planting of 40, 50, and 60 feet broad. The Eaſt Links, which are ſituated cloſe upon the ſea-beach, were at that time a dead and barren ſand, with ſcarcely any graſs upon them, and of no uſe but as a rabbit-warren. A gentleman from Hamburgh, happening to be at Tynninghame, mentioned to Lady Haddington that he had often ſeen trees growing on ſuch a ſoil; this hint was taken, and the links planted; at that time, all who ſaw them thought the expence of trees and labour thrown away; but, contrary to their expectations, they throve as well as on the beſt grounds. The trees planted in the links are the Scotch fir; in Binning wood there is a great variety, viz. oak, aſh, beech, elm, plain, fir, willows, and ſeveral others; the thinnings of which have, for many years paſt, yielded a conſiderable income, often above 500 l. a-year; and, beſides the advantage that is derived from the ſhelter which the plantations afford, the graſs in the woods is much more valuable than it would have been, if allowed to remain in its original ſtate. Binning wood conſiſts of about 300 acres; the plantations upon the eſtate have, at different times, been extended, and there are now above 800 acres of ground planted at Tynninghame. In the united pariſhes, altogether, there will be above a thouſand.

Population.—As the ſchoolmaſter's houſe was unfortunately burnt in the 1760, the ſeſſion regiſters of the pariſh of Whitekirk were deſtroyed at the ſame time, which renders it impoſſible to give any account of the births and marriages in this pariſh prior to that period. In the pariſh of Tynninghame, which at that time was not united to Whitekirk, the average of births for 10 years following 1700 was 23$\frac{1}{2}$, and of marriages 6, the average for 10 years following 1750 was of births 17$\frac{1}{2}$, of marriages 3.

Baptisms and Marriages in the united parishes, for 10 years preceding 1794.

Years.	*Baptisms.*	*Marriages.*
1784	23	11
1785	32	5
1786	25	3
1787	26	2
1788	25	6
1789	36	2
1790	25	2
1791	24	2
1792	26	3
1793	18	4
Total	260	46

In the account in 1792, which, from the indisposition of the minister, is the latest account that has been taken of the parish, the number of families was 231, of souls 994, of males 475, of females 519, all of whom are members of the national church, excepting 13 families which are Seceders.

It appears, by the return made to Dr Webster in 1755, that the population of Whitekirk was 369
of Tyninghame 599
Total 968
Population of both in 1792 994
Increase 26

It is said, however, that the population at the beginning of this century was greater than at present. The parish then contained

contained 3 villages, of which the leaſt veſtige is not now to be ſeen. In one of them were numbers of fiſhers, and houſes for the curing of herrings. At preſent the number of fiſhing boats in the pariſh is reduced to one.

There are no manufactures or trades people, but ſuch as are neceſſary for carrying on the buſineſs of agriculture. There are two ale-houſes, and three others licenſed to retail Britiſh ſpirits. There are 2 eſtabliſhed ſchools in the pariſh, the one at Whitekirk, the other at Tynninghame.

Poor.—By the Seſſion-Book of Tynninghame, it appears that a ſcheme was propoſed in 1745 by the Juſtices of the Peace, and Miniſters of this county, for erecting a general work-houſe for the maintenance of the poor of the county. The ſeſſion did not accede to the propoſal, as this pariſh is furniſhed with poor-houſes of its own ſufficient to lodge, and funds to maintain its own poor. The number of poor in the pariſh is not great; they are maintained by the weekly collections, and the intereſt of 511 l. 10 s. 2¾ d. mortified to the ſeſſion. There is alſo 70 l. more mortified to them, but the intereſt is ſtill paid to the ſiſter of the mortgager.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The extent of the ſea coſt is about three miles. In the north part of the pariſh there is a number of rocks, which have been very fatal to mariners at different times. Within theſe two years ſeveral veſſels have been wrecked there; and, to the honour of ſome of the farmers in the neighbourhood, every exertion was made to ſave the unhappy ſufferers and their effects, though, it muſt be confeſſed, the humanity of ſome of the lower claſs of people was not ſo very conſpicuous on ſuch awful occaſions.

On

On the top of Whitekirk hill there is a cairn, which is said to be the burial-place of two young men, who were killed by a detachment from the garrison of the Bass at the time of the Reformation. The people, with a very few exceptions, are sober, honest, and industrious; their dress and mode of living are much altered within these 20 years. The roads are tolerably good, and much improved of late. For several years preceding 1794, with a view to lessen the number of crows, which in this parish and neighbourhood destroy a vast quantity of grain, the farmers assessed themselves in so much a plough, and appointed a person to pay, from the common stock, a penny for each old crow's head, and a half-penny for a young one: The effects of this scheme are now very perceptible, as the number of crows is now greatly reduced.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIII.

PARISH OF GLASSERTON.

(COUNTY OF WIGTON.—PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON.—AND SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.)

From communications obligingly procured for this work, by the Rev DR DAVIDSON *of Whithorn, from* ROBERT HAWTHORN STEWART, *Eſq; of Phyſgill,* MATTHEW CAMPBELL, *Eſq; and other Gentlemen.*

Extent and Boundaries.

THE pariſh of Glaſſerton lies in the preſbytery and ſhire of Wigton, and in the ſynod of Galloway. At its eaſt and north-eaſt confines, this pariſh is bounded by the pariſhes of Whithorn, Sorbie, and Kirkinner; on the weſt and north-weſt by the bay of Luce, and the pariſh of Mochrum; on the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt by the ſame bay, and the pariſh of Whithorn. It meaſures, in length, from its ſouthern to its northern extremity, about ſeven miles and five furlongs; at its greateſt breadth two miles and ſeven furlongs; where it is narroweſt, not more than a mile and a half.

Surface and Aſpect.—In its natural aſpect the ſurface of the ground is rugged, unequal, and hilly. Towards the north, it riſes to an elevation ſomewhat higher than the level of its ſouthern parts. The hills are rocky, and, for the moſt part, covered

covered with heath. The lower tracts lying among them are marſhy. The ſoil is uſually loam, gravel, peat-earth, or clay. Granite and ſchiſtus compoſe, for the moſt part, the ſtrata of the rocks. Yet, beds of that mixture of carbonated lime and clay, which is known by the name of marl, have been here and there diſcovered; and the marl has been dug for manure, till the pits are now nearly exhauſted. The ſea beach exhibits no ſuch diverſity of the exuviae of marine animals, as might prove very intereſting to the lover of conchology. The ordinary indigenous graſſes form the common ſward of the paſture-grounds. At the ſea-ſhore, the rocks riſe over the waters, with a bold, abrupt, beetling termination of the land. Little native unplanted wood is to be ſeen within the pariſh. Furze and wild ſhrubs are more plentiful. The general courſe and temperature of the weather are variable, but mild. The genial influence of ſpring is commonly felt here, as around all theſe weſtern coaſts, ſomewhat earlier in the year than in the interior parts, or on the eaſtern ſide of the kingdom. Froſts are rarely intenſe or long continued; Snow ſeldom accumulates to a great depth, or lies long upon the ground. Some ſmall ſtreams, and many ſprings, ſerve to water the pariſh; but it is neither bounded nor interſected by any great river. Upon the rock within the ſea-mark, at a place called Monreith, there grows a conſiderable abundance of thoſe manure plants, which are frequently burnt for the ſake of the kelp or alkali of their aſhes; but little of that ſpecies which are employed in agriculture, as a rich manure, is to be ſeen on this part of the coaſt.

Wild Animals.—The fox, the weaſel, the otter, the hare, the mouſe, the mole, are almoſt the only ſpecies of wild four footed animals now remaining in this pariſh. The adder is the only formidable reptile. The wild fowls are numerous, being

being of the ſea partly, partly of the land. A great diverſity of ſea fiſhes are found on the coaſt. Trouts and other common ſmall fiſhes are taken in the ſtreams of freſh water.

Inhabitants.—The number of the inhabitants of the pariſh of Glaſſerton was in the year 1755, 809, and may be, at preſent, about 900 ſouls. Of theſe 151 are reſident on the eſtate of Caſtle Stewart.

Heritors.—Sir William Maxwell of Monreith, the heirs of the late Admiral Keith Stewart, the Earl of Galloway, Robert Hawthorn Stewart, Eſq; of Phyſgill, and ——— Stewart, Eſq; of Caſtle Stewart, are the principal heritors. Mr Hawthorn Stewart of Phyſgill is the chief reſident heritor.

Farmers.—The greater part of the inhabitants are uſually employed in the labours of huſbandry, as farmers, houſe-ſervants, cottagers hired by the year, or day-labourers.

The farmers hold their poſſeſſions, for the moſt part, by leaſes, varying in duration commonly from the term of three to 19, or 21 years. For the green low arable lands of the pariſh, the yearly rent varies, at an average, from 8 s. to 1 l. 10 s. an acre. The heath covered moors affording, at an average, not more than from 2 s. 6 d. to 7 s. an acre of yearly rent. The farms differ in extent, and in the ſum of the annual rent to the landlord, ſome yielding not more than 20 l. or 30 l. while others pay between 200 l. and 300 l. a-year.

Black Cattle.—In the rural oeconomy of the farmers in the pariſh of Glaſſerton, the firſt object is, the breeding and feeding of black cattle. Theſe are commonly of the well known Galloway race, not without ſome occaſional intermixture

mixture of the Iriſh and Engliſh breeds. But the pure Galloway race is preferred to all others. The calves are all reared. For the firſt eight months of its life, the calf is uſually left to ſuck its mother's milk. After attaining the full age of one year, it obtains the name of a ſtirk, and is ſold to the cattle dealers at the average price of 2 l. 10 s. or 3 l. At the age of three years, the bullocks and heifers of this pariſh, are ſold often at the rate of 7 l. or 8 l. a-head. The common price for well grown and well fed oxen, at the age of four years, is from 9 l. to 11 l. each. Old cows, when it is no longer eligible to keep them for producing calves and giving milk, are ſold at the price of 8 l. or 10 l. each, to be fattened for the butcher. The green or heathy paſture of the fields; cut graſs while it is ſtill green and unwithered; potatoes and turnips, ſtraw and hay, are the ſeveral ſorts of food with which theſe cattle are nouriſhed. They are here and there wintered in ſheds, and cow houſes, as well to preſerve them from ſuffering by the inclemency of the ſeaſon, as that the refuſe of their forage and litter, mixed with their dung, may accumulate for manure to the ground under tillage. As much of the milk is conſumed by the calves, the quantity of the butter and cheeſe annually made is ſmaller in proportion to the number of the milk-cows, than in the pariſhes of Ayrſhire.

Agriculture.—Tillage for the production of grains and bulbous rooted vegetables, is, in its importance, the ſecond object of attention, and ſource of profit, to the farmers of this pariſh. Lime imported from Whitehaven; marl dug from thoſe pits which are now nearly exhauſted; dung; and compoſts of dung, earth, and lime, are the manures employed to fertilize the ſoil. From one fifth to one third part of the arable ground of every farm is annually plowed; the remaining

maining four-fifths, or two thirds, preſerved for graſs. The tillage of every year is uſually commenced in October and November. The chain plough has been tried; but the common old Scottiſh plough is generally preferred to every other model, as being the beſt adapted to the nature of the country. The plough is uſually drawn by two horſes, and the ploughmen are, to a reaſonable degree, alert and ſkilful. Oats and bear, or barley, are the grains chiefly cultivated. Seed-time is from about the beginning of March to the beginning of May. Potatoes have long been ſkilfully and ſucceſsfully cultivated here. The culture of turnips, being recommended by the example and ſucceſs of ſome of the principal landholders, begins to enter every year more and more into the ordinary agriculture of this pariſh. Corn, for ſeed, has been occaſionally imported hither, from the moſt diſtant parts of Scotland, and even England; and it has been found highly advantageous, to make very frequent changes of corn for ſeed; ſtill bringing the new ſeed corn from a ſoil as oppoſite as poſſible in its nature, to the ſoil on which the ſeed is to be ſown. The ſeaſon for cutting down and gathering in the corn, is uſually from the 20th day of Auguſt, to the 15th of October. Inſtances have occurred, in which barley has yielded, of increaſe, 12 times the quantity of the ſeed; bear, an increaſe equal to 10 times the quantity of ſeed; and oats, 8 ſeeds. Tartarian oats having been tried here, has been known to yield an increaſe equal to fourteen times the quantity of the ſeed employed. The ordinary *rotation of crops* is, upon a field newly broken up, three ſucceſſive white crops; with the laſt of theſe, graſs-ſeeds, to afford a ſufficient ſward for hay or paſture, on the fourth and ſubſequent years; and then the field is left to reſt for 6, 7, or 9 years, undiſturbed by the plough. Both corn and barley are carefully weeded in ſummer. The corn cut down in harveſt, is put up to dry for

the barn, in ſhocks only. Large quantities of both potatoes and grain are annually exported. Sometimes the courſe of crops, above deſcribed, is ſo far deviated from, that, after the third crop of grain, the field is manured with dung, and planted with potatoes or turnips; after which it is, on the fifth year, ſown with barley and graſs ſeeds. After the reaping of the barley, the field is left to enjoy the uſual period of ceſſation from tillage.

Sheep.—Sheep are the third in importance of the articles of the ſtock and produce of the farms in this pariſh. The ſmall white-faced race of the pariſh of Mochrum; the well known, ſmall, black-faced breed of Galloway; the variety produced by the ſkilful management of the celebrated *Culley*; the Spaniſh and the Shetland races of ſheep, are all known and fed here. A mixture of the black-faced Galloway, with the Culley breed, has been alſo tried. But the common Galloway race is the moſt prevalent. Neither the Spaniſh nor the Shetland ſheep has, as yet, been found to thrive here, in ſuch a manner as might encourage the common farmer to receive them into his flocks. The practice of ſmearing the ſheep, annually, at the beginning of winter, with butter and tar, has begun to fall into diſuſe; becauſe the ordinary temperature of winter on theſe coaſts, is extremely mild; and the quality of the wool of ſheep unſmeared is, for the moſt part, conſiderably better, than the quality of that which is clotted with tar. The fineſt wool is ſold to the merchants at the price of 16 s. a ſtone. Thoſe lambs which can be annually ſpared for ſale, are ſold at the average rate of about 6 l. Sterling a ſcore. Sheep of the age of 3 or 4 four years, are bought from this pariſh, for the market, at the rate of 10 l. or 12 l. a ſcore. In ſome inſtances, ſheep of that age, have been ſold here, at above a guinea a head.

Swine.

Swine.—Swine are fed in conſiderable numbers, by the farmers and cottagers in this pariſh. They are nouriſhed chiefly upon the refuſe of potatoes, upon whey, and other ſmall articles, which, but for them, might probably go to waſte. The pork is a ſtrong wholeſome food, and a ſeaſonable ſupply to the labourers, in thoſe times of the year in which it is leſs uſual to furniſh them with freſh beef and mutton. They may be driven alive, even to a conſiderably diſtant place of ſale: Or, they may be fattened and ſlaughtered at home; and the pork then pickled in barrels, or cured, as bacon, for exportation.

Horſes.—The horſes of this pariſh, are a ſtout, handſome race, very fit for the ſaddle, the load, or the draught. The breed has been diligently improved by the care of the gentlemen, landholders in Glaſſerton, and the neighbourhood. Moſt of the young horſes are the progeny of ſtallions introduced into this country by the Earl of Galloway, and the late Admiral Keith Stewart. It is probable, that the *variety* of the horſe now prevalent in theſe parts of Galloway, has been gradually produced by the continual croſſing of the ſmall old Galloway breed, with foreign ſtallions.

Incloſures, &c.—Theſe are all the capital articles of farm-ſtock in this pariſh. Poultry, and the uſual domeſtic animals, are kept about every farm-houſe and cottage. All the inſtruments of agriculture are of a conſtruction ſufficiently ſkilful and convenient. Incloſures, and the diviſions of farms and fields, are formed commonly by the Galloway ſtone-dyke; which is ſometimes a double wall without mortar, and is often raiſed to the height of 6 or 7 quarters of an ell. Attempts to produce hedges, for fences, have never yet been

ſucceſsful

ſucceſsful here, on account of the vicinity of the ſea, the reluctance of the ſoil, or other cauſes. The roads are good, and perhaps ſufficiently numerous and well directed: They are made, and from time to time repaired, at the expence of 15 s. Sterling, levied in converſion for the ſtatute-labour, upon every hundred pounds Scottiſh, of the valued rents. Peats, from the moraſſes, are the common fuel: Pit-coal is obtained, for the ſame purpoſe, from England, at the price of 15 s. a ton; and it has lately begun to be uſed here in larger quantities than formerly. The farm-houſes, and the office houſes reſpectively pertaining to them, are, for the moſt part, commodious and ſubſtantial: The office houſes ſtand uſually at ſome ſmall convenient diſtance from the farm-houſe.

Markets.—In compariſon with many parts of the country, the pariſh of Glaſſerton cannot be ſaid to be very diſadvantageouſly ſituate in reſpect to markets for the exports which it produces, and the imports needed for the uſe of its inhabitants. Whithern; the iſle of Whithern; and Port-William; the two laſt ſea-ports, are the neareſt places worthy of being mentioned as ſeats of merchants, ſhop-keepers, and artiſans. But the exportation is chiefly to England, or to the ſhires of Ayr, Renfrew, and Lanerk, in Scotland. The black cattle are exported, annually, by land, to the great markets and tryſts in the northern counties of England. February, May, and September, are the months in which black cattle are, every year, ſent to the markets. The expence of ſending a bullock, from this neighbourhood to St Faith's fair, may be reaſonably eſtimated at 16 s. or 17 s. By the fatigue and hunger of the journey, the animal ſuffers a loſs of fleſh equivalent to 17 s. more. The ſheep, of whatever age, are exported, by ſea, to Whitehaven or Liverpool. For both ſheep

and

and black cattle. however, the eſtabliſhment. and extenſion of manufactures has begun to afford a partial market in the 3 counties of Ayr, Renfrew, and Lanerk, which is little leſs convenient than the markets of England. The wool was formerly ſold wholly into Ayrſhire, for the manufactures of coarſe woollen ſtuffs, which have been long carried on there. But the Engliſh wool-merchants have lately found their way hither. The ſurplus grain, whether barley, bear, or oats, is exported to Liverpool and Whitehaven: The quantity and value of the barley and bear exported, are greater than thoſe of the corn. Lime and coals are, among other articles, imported from Whitehaven, in return for the exports carried hither.

Example of the Landholders.—Fortunately, for the improvement of the agriculture, and of the rural oeconomy in general, of the pariſh of Glaſſerton, the principal reſident landholders have paid extraordinary and highly ſucceſsful attention to this object.

Robert Hawthorn Stewart, Eſq; of *Phyſgill*, in the general management of his eſtates, and particularly in the cultivation of thoſe fields which he retains in his own natural poſſeſſion; has eminently diſplayed that active and vigorous, yet temperate and rational ſpirit of improvement, which ever contributes the moſt effectually to increaſe the fertility of a country, and to excite and enlighten the rural induſtry of its inhabitants; becauſe it is equally remote from the folly of the agricultural projector, who thinks no practice in huſbandry good, that was ever tried before; and from the blind prejudices of the ruſtic, who believes every thing to be abſurd, that has not been recommended by ancient cuſtom in the place. Mr Stewart has ſubdivided, and incloſed his fields with excellent dry-ſtone walls; has adopted the beſt rotation

of

of crops known in the country for that ground which he ſubjects to tillage; has imported grain for a change of ſeed, and ſheep to ameliorate the breed of his flocks, from the moſt diſtant parts of England. He has very ſucceſsfully employed lime, ſpread as a manure upon the unbroken ſurface, to improve the natural paſture of ground which it was not then eligible to plow. In the culture of turnips, a ſpecies of green crop ſtill too rare in this country, he has ſet a very ſkilful and fortunate example. The uſe of potatoes, as a very beneficial fallowing crop, has been equally encouraged by his care and ſucceſs. Having turned his attention particularly to the grazier-farming, of feeding and fattening black-cattle for the market; he has conducted this branch of huſbandry with a degree of activity and ſkill highly advantageous to himſelf, and uſeful in the country.—It would be illiberal and uncandid to omit mentioning here, that, from motives of true public ſpirit, Mr Stewart has ſhewn himſelf particularly friendly to theſe ſtatiſtical inquiries, to the reſearches of the Board of Agriculture, and to whatever collection or diffuſion of uſeful information, tends to enlighten and improve rural induſtry and oeconomy.

The houſe of *Phyſgill* is ſpacious and beautifully ſituate. The circumjacent fields ſpread out around it with a very fine effect. The vicinity of the ſea-ſhore is exceedingly intereſting. The plantations, within theſe grounds, are not extenſive, but not ſtunted or dwarfiſh. Mr Stewart has formed an excellent garden, which he has ſurrounded with an uncommonly good ſtone and lime wall, full 14 feet in height. It affords great abundance of fruits, flowers, and pot-herbs, both ordinary and rare, and of the beſt quality.

The late *Admiral Keith Stewart* of *Glaſſerton* had, for many years, applied himſelf, with great earneſtneſs, to beautify and improve his eſtate in this pariſh. He built on

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it a ſtately manſion-houſe, formed an excellent garden and ſcattered plantations over his grounds in that arrangement in which they ſeemed likely to thrive the beſt, to afford the moſt uſeful ſhelter, and the moſt to gratify the eye of taſte. In his own natural poſſeſſion, he reſerved nearly two thouſand acres of land, almoſt the whole eſtate of Glaſſerton (properly ſo called). For managing the huſbandry of this tract of ground, he hired his upper farm ſervants, from thoſe counties in England, of which the agriculture is eſteemed to be the moſt ſkilful. He formed, at the ſame time, a ſquare of farm office-houſes, poſſeſſing every requiſite accommodation for every ſort of animal-ſtock, and for all the other uſes of rural oeconomy. With equal attention, he provided all the beſt inſtruments of improved agriculture, and breeds of the beſt races of the different ſorts of animals to be fed upon his lands. In the ſyſtem of farming which he thus adopted, four hundred black cattle, forty ſcore of ſheep, and a proportionate number of horſes, formed his animal ſtock. Out of the 2000 acres, about two hundred might be annually plowed to bear crops; and of theſe, ſixty were uſually planted with turnips: Three hundred acres, nearly, were occupied by gardens, houſes, and woods: Two hundred acres more were reſerved as meadow; one half bearing ſown graſſes; the other half being bog, and affording only the unimproved natural ſward. A number of day-labourers, varying from 50 to 70, were conſtantly employed in the farm-work on theſe grounds. The uſe of oxen, for drawing the cart and plough, was zealouſly adopted. For this purpoſe, the ſtouteſt and largeſt boned oxen were uſually ſelected, out of thoſe droves of Iriſh cattle, which were continually imported, through this country, towards England. At the age of 4 years, theſe were yoked in the draught: They were wrought, in this labour, for the next 4 years: On the 9th year, they were freed from the yoke,

and

and fattened for the butcher. While at work, theſe bullocks were plentifully fed with hay, ſtraw, or occaſionally potatoes, with the addition of a ſmall weekly allowance of corn. The oxen thus fed and applied to labour, were found to have nearly the ſame ſtrength of draught as horſes; but their pace, under the yoke, was ſo much ſlower than the ordinary pace of the horſe, that three ploughs drawn by oxen, did not commonly perform more labour than two ploughs drawn by horſes would, within the ſame ſpace of time, perform. The working bullock was, however, nouriſhed at one half of the expence of the ſuſtenance to the working horſe, and was much leſs liable to diſeaſe. For ploughing ſtony unequal ground, the ox is leſs fit than the horſe; becauſe, when the plough chances to ſtrike upon any obſtacle, ſuch as a rock or root, in the furrow, the ox is too indocile and refractory, to ſtep back with the ſame readineſs as the horſe, and ſuffer the ploughman to turn his inſtrument aſide from the obſtacle which it cannot remove. All the agricultural improvements of the late Admiral Stewart were proſecuted on a large ſcale, and at a great expence. So many of them were, of neceſſity, merely experimental, that they cannot be ſuppoſed to have every one already repaid the expence at which they were made, with a reaſonable ſurplus of profit. But they muſt, in the whole, have ſo augmented the fertility of the ſoil, and ſo increaſed its value by the addition of ſuch a capital ſunk upon it, that the lands cannot, in the end, fail to yield an enlarged produce and rental, more than ſufficient to compenſate, fully, all the care and expence at which they have been improved. This highly cultivated condition of the eſtate of Glaſſerton, is undeniably a fine monument of the taſte, judgment, and ardent public ſpirit of its late proprietor.

Mr

Mr Stewart of *Caſtle-Stewart* does not, indeed, reſide upon his eſtate in this pariſh, but it is, in his abſence, under the management of *Matthew Campbell, Eſq;* a gentleman well acquainted with the beſt huſbandry of England, and of this country; and moſt laudably zealous to improve the agriculture of the county, and the value of the eſtates under his care. In granting leaſes, and in all his arrangements with the tenants, he earneſtly endeavours to hold out ſuch encouragements, and to impoſe ſuch reſtrictions, as may beſt overcome obſtinate prejudices in favour of old unſkilful practice; and may beſt promote the adoption of that modern, improved, rural oeconomy which promiſes the higheſt advantages at once to the tenant, and to his landlord.

Price of Labour.—The price of labour would probably be much higher than it is, at preſent, in this pariſh, and throughout the county, were it not for the near vicinity of Ireland, and the continual emigration of great numbers of Iriſh labourers. A ſtout, alert, and ſkilful ploughman receives, together with his board in his maſter's houſe, 4 l. ſterling of wages in the half year. A good maid-ſervant's wages are uſually from thirty to forty ſhillings in the half year, beſide her board. Few or no artiſans reſide within this pariſh, except ſuch as are employed ſolely in the cuſtomer-work of their fellow-pariſhioners, and other near neighbours. Their wages are in a due proportion to thoſe of the hinds engaged in farm-labour.

Church, &c.—The church ſtands near to Glaſſerton-Houſe, and is romantically emboſomed in wood, which ſheds around it a venerable gloom, as if it were a druidical temple, or the ſacred grove of ſome Syrian idol. It was built in the year 1752. The wood was at a much later period planted around

the church yard, by the late Admiral Stewart, to hide the church, that it might not deform the aſpect of his ornamented grounds. The manſe was built 18 or 20 years ſince. The preſent reſpectable clergyman of this pariſh is the Rev. Dr Laing.

Antiquities and Hiſtory.—Of the ancient hiſtory of the pariſh of Glaſſerton, there has not been much recorded or remembered. There were probably no fixed dwellings within its area, before the time of the Roman conqueſt of theſe ſouth-weſt parts of Scotland. Whithern, and all its neighbourhood, were well known to the Romans: Veſtiges of Roman encampments are ſtill to be ſeen in theſe environs. Ninian, the founder of the cathedral church of Whithern, and the firſt biſhop of Galloway, is ſaid to have occaſionally inhabited a cave which is ſtill ſhewn on the ſea-ſhore of this pariſh, adjacent to the houſe of Phyſgill. It is probable that the *Anglo-Saxons* of Northumberland, at the time when they poſſeſſed the ſea-coaſt of Galloway, between the ſixth and the ninth centuries, firſt impoſed upon this tract, the name of *Glaſſerton*; which, in the ancient Saxon language, and in its progeny, the modern German, ſignifies *the bare hill:* a name which, at that time, might perhaps be intended to deſcribe the lands to which it was given, as deſtitute of wood, while the contiguous grounds were overgrown with it. On the verge of the ſea-ſhore, at a ſmall diſtance from St Ninian's cave, are the veſtiges of ſome ancient caſtle, which may poſſibly have been built in the eleventh or the twelfth century, (to judge from the maſonry of the wall, and the outline of the foundation), and which might be the original houſe or caſtle of Phyſgill. In the courſe of the centuries ſubſequent, the pariſh was erected; its limits were defined; the huſbandry of agriculture and paſturage, was, at length, fully eſtabliſhed here; the labourers of the ground were emancipated

emancipated from the ſervile ſtate of villainage; the lands paſſed into the hands of the anceſtors and predeceſſors of their preſent proprietors; and that ſyſtem of life and rural oeconomy, which we have ſurveyed, was at laſt introduced.

Improvements Suggeſted.—It is to be wiſhed and expected from the liberal intelligence, and prudent activity of the landholders, and the inhabitants in general, of this pariſh, that the culture of green crops may be more generally and heartily adopted; that new efforts may be continually made among them, to bring ſtill more and more of their moſſes and muirs under tillage; that the farms may be ſtill more carefully incloſed and ſubdivided; that the culture of wheat, in a certain proportion, may be adopted into their agriculture,—ſince where barley grows, wheat may, very often, be ſucceſsfully produced; that the croſs-roads may be multiplied and improved; that, by the increaſe of navigation and trade at the neareſt ſea-ports, and the introduction of new manufactures into the county,—the great market for the produce of the pariſh, may be, as it were, brought nearer to it; that beef, mutton, and pork, may be prepared here in large quantities, for ſea-ſtores, and for other exportation; that, without deſerting their huſbandry, theſe good people may take a profitable ſhare in the fiſhery of the coaſts; and, above all, that a *parochial ſchool*, which is unaccountably wanting, may be ſpeedily inſtituted *.—H.

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* Any inaccuracies or deficiencies in the above account, are to be imputed, by the candid reader, not to the gentlemen by whom the information was liberally communicated, but to the perſon who arranged it for the preſs, and to circumſtances which have rendered it impoſſible to ſubmit the *proof ſheets* of this paper to thoſe gentlemen's reviſal. For many particulars defective here, the reader is referred to the very valuable and elaborate accounts of the pariſhes of Sorbie and Whithern, written by the ingenious and learned Dr Davidſon, and inſerted in the I. and XVI. vols. of this work.—H.

APPENDIX

TO

VOLUME XVII.

APPENDIX

TO

VOLUME XVII.

In conſequence of a letter from the Hon. Lord Eſkgrove to Mr M'Courty, ſtating ſome inaccuracies in the account of New Hall, and ſuggeſting the propriety of having them corrected; the following more perfect one has been drawn up, to be inſerted, (in the event of another edition), immediately after the article *Pennycuick Houſe*, in the hiſtory of that pariſh.

New Hall Spittal, &c.

NEW HALL, about three miles above Pennycuick, on the north ſide of the North Eſk, was in 1529, and during the reſt of that century, in the poſſeſſion of a family of the name of Crichtoune. How long it was a place, and inhabited by them, before that period, is uncertain; but the Caſtle of Brunſtoune, the ruins of which ſtill remain, about two miles down the river, and on the ſame ſide, was alſo occupied, by a family of that name, in 1568, at which time, as appears by this date on the wall, a part of it at leaſt ſeems to have been built. Whether, prior to the date of the earlieſt writing, it had received the name of *New Hall*, in contradiſtinction to an old building that had formerly exiſted, is not known; but that this was the caſe is probable, from its having been the opinion of one of its proprietors that it was once

once a religious houſe; and alſo from the name of *New Houſe* having been given to a building in ſomewhat ſimilar circumſtances, cloſe by it, on the lands of Spittal; both of which particulars will be more fully ſtated afterwards.

In 1646 it belonged to Dr Pennycook; and in his works, he mentions ſome particular plants found upon the grounds. He was alſo proprietor of Romanno, a place not far diſtant to the ſouth, in the pariſh of Newlands, where, in 1677, a ſerious ſquabble, between two parties of gypſies, ſeems to have happened, that particularly attracted his notice. In 1683, he built a dovecot on the ſpot, apparently to ſhew his wit, in the following very homely diſtich,

The field of gipſie blood, which here you ſee,
A ſhelter for the harmleſs dove ſhall be.

Along with this couplet are, the date, his own initials, and thoſe of his wife, ſtill on the front of the pigeon-houſe; and though his verſes are but poor productions, and his wit of a low caſt now, he was one of the poets of his day. About this time, alſo, ſome farms, called Whitefield, between theſe two places, belonged to a ſon of the hiſtorian and Poet Drummond of Hawthorndean. Drummond himſelf died in 1649.

In 1703, about the time of the union, New Hall was acquired by Sir David Forbes, Knight, who was married to Catherine Clerk, ſiſter to the firſt Sir John Clerk of Pennycuick, and grandmother to David Rae, Eſq; Lord Eſkgrove, one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, another ſiſter being married to Mr Brown of Dolphington.

On the death of Sir David, it devolved upon his eldeſt ſon, Mr John Forbes, advocate, who, as well as his father, was a lawyer of very conſiderable eminence. He was couſin-german, and deputy at Edinburgh, to Preſident Duncan Forbes of Culloden, when Lord Advocate; an apartment in the houſe

is

is ſtill known by the name of the Advocate's Room; and two of the fields among the incloſures, to the eaſt, are called the upper and nether (lower) Cumberland Parks. The victory at Culloden ſeems to have been peculiarly agreeable in this diſtrict. A farm to the ſouth, the property of the Hon. Captain Cochrane of Lamancha, is called Cumberland; and on the front of the houſe belonging to it, is inſcribed, "William "Duke of Cumberland, Liberty and Property's defender, "Culloden Muir, April 16th 1746."—The bodily, as well as mental abilities of Mr Forbes, ſeem to have been remarkable, for it is related of him, that he once walked from Edinburgh to Glaſgow, (44 Engliſh miles), and after returning on foot, the ſame day, danced at a ball in the evening.

While inhabited by the Crichtons, it was an irregular caſtle, and, with its appendages, covered the whole breadth of the point on which it ſtands, formed by a deep ravine on either ſide, running up towards the Pentland Hills, from the glen of the Eſk behind. The ground floor, in the front of the preſent building, made a part of one of its towers; it is arched above, with ſlits, for defence, on every ſide, and its wall is ſo ſtrong, as, in one place, to have a cloſet cut out of its thickneſs. Some vaults are left, underneath the remains of a ſmall round tower, on the north, overhanging the eaſtern receſs, through which deſcends a rivulet, in ſeveral beautiful caſcades, rendered dark, and extremely romantic, by the high and cloſe, and wildly growing trees with which it is filled. Over the weſtern, which is dry, though likewiſe ſhaded with thick foliage, on a point to the ſouth of the garden, was the chapel and priſon; which laſt is ſtill remembered to have been uſed for refractory coaliers. A walk goes round this point, forming a noble terrace, from the weſt end of the houſe, looking up the glen, and over to a mineral well among the copſe, and underneath the pines, on the other ſide. The

water

water of this ſpring, which is extremely clear, has ſomewhat of a bitteriſh taſte, and gives a darker tint to the freeſtone rock, down which it runs to the river below. With a trifling aſſiſtance from art, the adjoining part of the rock, oppoſite to the remains of an old waſhing-houſe, and looking down the irriguous and deeply ſequeſtered glade or holm, immediately behind the place, might eaſily be converted into a delightful hermetic retreat. In a letter to the proprietor from the late William Tytler, Eſq; of Woodhouſelee, of date 31ſt October 1791, he ſays, 'In my infancy, when I ſtaid at New 'Hall, the chapel was in ruins, but the remains of the four 'walls were ſeen, and the eaſt gable, with a pointed arched 'window, was pretty entire. On the weſt end was a ſmall 'piece of ground, which was called the Chapel-yard, on the 'north ſide of which was a broad graſs-walk, ſhaded with a 'double row of fine old ſpreading beeches. I remember to 'have heard Mr Forbes ſay, that New Hall was a religious 'houſe. The lands of Spittal were hoſpital-lands, probably 'endowed for ſuſtaining the hoſpital, under the care and 'management of the religious foundation of New Hall.' The territories of the church, from the names of many different places in the pariſh, ſeem to have been very extenſive in this quarter; and if New Hall was once a religious houſe, which is not unlikely, it muſt have been at a very early period. There is a tradition ſtill handed about, that the proprietors of this place had the right of pit and gallows, or the power of life and death over their vaſſals; and, in confirmation of this, a ſtory is told, that one of them, after repeated offences, having caught a young man breaking into the orchard, then at the foot of the eaſtern recels, gave orders that he ſhould immediately be ſhut up in the dungeon. His mother arriving at the caſtle, in queſt of her ſon, was told to go and get ſome refreſhment in the hall, and that ſhe

ſhould

ſhould ſoon have a ſight of him; which ſhe accordingly did, and, on being taken to the bottom of the glen, found him hanging at a tree on the ſpot where he had been caught. As it was only done with the deſign of giving the culprit and his mother a ſevere freight, he was inſtantly cut down, but it was too late; and among the many imprecations ſhe ſent forth, it is ſaid one was a wiſh, 'that no proprietors 'ſhould ever be ſucceeded by a ſon in the eſtate.'

'My mother ſhall the horrid furies raiſe,
'With imprecations.' *Chapman's Odyſſey.*

Although the effects of this curſe have, long ſince, been curtailed and ended, it is ſtill remembered as part of the ſtory. Moans and ſcreams are yet frequently heard, at night, on that ſide of the houſe, among the trees in the deep receſs; and whether from the rapidity of its deſcent, or its connection with this event, is unknown, but the ſtream itſelf is ſtill diſtinguiſhed by the name of the hanging burn. It is farther added, that, in order to do away the blaſting influence of this malediction, the maſter of the place ſet out on a long pilgrimage, and leaving an only ſiſter, of the name of Mary, behind, ſhe amuſed her lonely hours with the beauties of the ſcenery around. About half a mile above the houſe, the banks of the Eſk widen and flatten for a conſiderable way upwards, excepting at one place, about the middle of this expanſion, where, contracted and divided by a croſſing ridge of limeſtone, it forms a lin or fall, and, in ſucceſſive leaps, pours itſelf into a circular pool, that, under birches, ſhrubs, and rocks, ſpreads in front, upon a bank of peebles, betwixt and a little green facing the ſouth. Up to this beautiful and ſequeſtered ſpot looks a promontory, formed by the ſudden expanſion of the river's banks: That part of it, moſt in view of the lin, is marked by a round turf ſeat, that terminates a winding path, along the north brink of the glen, all

the way from the houſe; and from the attachment of that lady to this ſeat in particular, the whole eminence has got, and ſtill retains, the romantic title of *Mary's Bower*. A lime-ſtone rock in it, now working, has no other name but Mary's Bower Quarry. The winding path can be traced by a flowering ſhrub, here and there, dropt ſince, all its length weſtward; and on the eaſt ſide of the ſeat, a ſmall ſtream precipitates over the lime-ſtone craggs, amidſt birches and copſewood, to the bottom of the glen, upwards of a hundred feet. The whole of this tradition was accidentally told by an old coalier, of the name of James Dixon, in March 1787, on inquiring how the quarry came to get the name of Mary's Bower; and has ſince been heard from ſeveral others, with ſome trifling variations; but from all, this inference is clear, that, at a period ſo early, as that ſuch an occurrence could have happened, this place was in the hands of an independent lay proprietor. In the title-deeds, the fortalice of Coal-town is mentioned as belonging to it, and a field among the incloſures between the Cumberland Parks, and ſtream called Monk's Burn, to the eaſt, is called the Coaltown Park, where the tower once ſtood.

In the time of Dr Penecuick, while Cromwell himſelf was following the King's army towards Worceſter, ſome parties from General Monk's detachment, left behind in Scotland, are ſaid to have been ſent to this neighbourhood. According to this account, they had a ſkirmiſh on the Harleymuir, a little way eaſt on the other ſide of the water, and gave the name of the *Steel* to a part of it that deſcends to the lower banks of the Eſk, in a point formed by the glen of that river, and another that enters it from a rock on the ſouth, called the Harbour Craig. This circumſtance is alſo ſaid to have diſtinguiſhed a ſtream, that enters the glen of the Eſk behind a cottage, with its rural accompanyments, in ſeveral conſider-

able

able falls, about a mile below the houſe, and oppoſite to the Steel, by the name of Monk's Burn: One of the Pentland, by ſome thought to be here a corruption of Pictland, hills, about a mile up, from behind which this ſtream deſcends, is called Monk's Rigg (ridge); and the glade or holm through which the Eſk winds, and at the head of which the cottage ſtands at its mouth, Monk's Haugh. At the ſource of the ſtream, however, from the weſt ſide of it, aſcends one of the Spittal Hills, near the ſummit of which is a petrifying ſpring; and, advancing a little ſouthward, the other hill, from which alſo, a great way up, iſſues ſome lime-water of an incruſting quality, though not ſo ſtrong. At the foot of this laſt, in the verge of a rill coming down from between them, the old houſe of Spittal, new roofed, and moderniſed, now ſtands. In the title-deeds, the lands are deſigned, back and fore Spittal, and behind, at the weſt end of the hollow formed by the hills, and on the ſide of the Eſk, which almoſt encircles them, are ſome ruins once taken for the original Spittal, but which now appear only to have been appendages to it. From theſe ruins two paths lead, the one to the Fore, or as it is at preſent called, the Old Spittal, on the eaſt through the paſs; and the other up the Eſk, in the direction of the Frith of Forth. In the angle below the Old Spittal Houſe, formed by the hill and Monk's Burn, a piece of very fertile ground is ſtill called the Glebe Croft; and exactly oppoſite from the other ſide of the burn, riſes Monk's Rigg, with Monk's Road pointing directly to Queensferry and Edinburgh, with its font-ſtone in view commanding all the ſouth country on the brow, and the ornamented top of the croſs, formerly erected on its edge, lying at the bottom of the hill. Previous to the detachment from Monk's army, therefore, and this ſingular coincidence of names, the ridge, burn, and haugh, from a very different deſcription of inhabitants, had

already

already acquired their preſent deſignations. As the monaſtries of Dundrennan, Melroſs, Newbottle, Newabbey, Glenluce, Kelſo, and Culroſs, belonged to the order of Ciſtertians, or Bernardines, who, by the religious profuſeneſs of King, or St David, and others, were extremely rich; and the pariſh had its old name from St Kentigern, who was of that order, and a monk in the Abbey of Culroſs, founded by Malcolm M'Duff Earl of Fife. The Spittal was probably a hoſpitium or inn, and the road, with its croſſes, which alſo ſerved as land-marks, an accommodation for travellers paſſing from one monaſtry to another; the Back Spittal ſuiting ſuch as went by the north ſide of the hills. In confirmation of this, the weary and benighted traveller is ſtill conſidered as having a right to ſhelter and protection at the Old Spittal; and one of the out-houſes, with ſome ſtraw, is generally allotted for that purpoſe. It is alſo remarkable, that there is ſtill an inn upon theſe lands, though indeed on a different foundation, making the firſt ſtage on the great roads from Edinburgh to Moffat, and Dumfries and Biggar, along the foot of the Pentland Hills; and farther, it is called the *New* Houſe, though now a very old one, ſeemingly to diſtinguiſh it from the Spittals, in the place of which it had been built. Theſe lands, till lately, held of Herriot's Hoſpital in Edinburgh. The laſt proprietor who reſided at Spittal, where there is ſtill a comfortable ſlated houſe, and ſome fine old aſh trees, was a gentleman of the name of Oſwald, who was accidentally ſhot by his ſervant who was walking behind with his gun, in going to Slipperfield Loch, in the pariſh of Linton, to ſhoot wild ducks; and he lies in that church-yard, under the following epitaph.

Jacobo Oſwaldo de Spittal Marito bene merenti Grizzella Ruſſellia conjux moeſtiſſima, P. C.

Marmor

Marmor hoc quo affidens ſaepe curavi genium mortuo mihi imponi volui. Siſte viator quiſquis es, diſcumbas licet, et ſi copia eſt marmore hoc uti ego olim fruis caſis. Hoc ſi rite feceris monumentum non violabis nec manes meos habebis iratos. Vale et Vive! After his death, the property was acquired by Mr Forbes.

The upper part of Monk's Burn runs upon rotten whin, of which all the Pentland Hills, to the eaſt of it, ſeem to be entirely compoſed; and about half way between Monk's Rigg and Haugh, near the burn, there is a chalybeate ſpring of a very ſtrong quality. One of the Pentland Hills, along which a road to the north ſide is formed, and in part metalled, is compoſed of a rotten whin, of a beautiful reddiſh buff-colour, like Kenſington gravel, ſo much admired for walks, or the appearance that ſome kinds of clay takes when burnt.

There is alſo on the ſide of the ſame road a thin vein of clay, of a light pink or lilac tint. This road has remained unfiniſhed, and of courſe impaſſible for ſome years, although it might be compleated, in the moſt ſufficient manner, for leſs than 150 l. Sterling, which would give a full and eaſy ſupply of both lime and coal, to thoſe on the north ſide of the hills; while, by a ſtrange overſight, during this time, very large ſums have been expending by the inhabitants of that diſtrict, in uneffectual trials to obtain what they can ſo much more eaſily, and with certainty, at ſo ſmall an expence, bring within their reach. On the eaſt of Monk's Burn there is no lime; but on the weſt, not only the low grounds are full of both lime and coal, but incruſting, or lime ſprings, are to be found, more than two thirds of the way up, both the hills of Spittal and Carlops. This is contrary to what has been aſſerted, and to the theory of mineralogiſts, that mountains are entirely compoſed of primitive rocks, ſuch as whin-

whinſtone and other lapideous ſtrata; but it is not wonderful, for, of the many attempts philoſophy has made to get beyond its reach, none, as yet, ſeem to have been more unſucceſsful than thoſe to diſcover the internal ſtructure of the earth, ſo as to aſcertain the rules by which ſhe has been formed. The various foſſils to be found on this rivulet are enumerated elſewhere, in the account of the pariſh; and in conſequence of the late remarkable flood in November 1795, ſince writing the above, it has burſt into a coal-waſte before it reached the falls, and its outlet has not yet been diſcovered this 3d December 1795.

A little below Monk's Haugh, ſurrounded with riſing knolls, and, on three of its ſides, by the wooded banks of the river, ſweeping round, far beneath, is a clear and deep lake, without any viſible ſupply or outlet, or change, at any time, in its depth, its waters always touching the green ſward at the foot of its dry and undulating banks. Several years ago, the yawl of a pickeroon or proviſion boat, that runs from one iſland to another, had been picked up in the gulf of Mexico by a veſſel from the Weſt Indies, and was ſent as a curioſity, being built of cedar, to the proprietor. Being repaired and painted, it was put upon the lake, and adds to its beauty. When, from the eaſtern extremity, the glare of a ſummer noon begins to mellow, the fiſh begin to leap, and the boat, with its broad enſign ſtreaming at its ſtern, ſhoots along the bright ſurface, or floats ſtationary, and at reſt on the ſmooth boſom of the lake; when at this time the ſun gets behind the ornamented farm-houſe of Old Harleymuir, on a height beyond the river above the Steel, and between and the Harbour Craig, and throws his warm empurpling rays on the Carlops Hill, in the diſtance to the right, the whole forms as enchanting a picture as the pencil could ſelect. Between and the river on the eaſt is the Mairfield Quarry, out of which

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the preſent houſe of Pennycuick was built, and alſo, though 16 miles diſtant, and in part over a very bad road, the church and ſpire of Peebles. The ſtone hardens when expoſed to the air, and reſembles, in appearance, the Portland ſtone in England.

On the ſouth ſide of the Steel, and weſt from Harleymuir, at the meeting of two glens, is a ſingular rock, of a coarſe freeſtone grit, compoſed of ſmall ſemi-tranſparent peebles, reſembling a ruinous grey tower, called the Harbour Craig, (cragg). Among its rude pillars and crevices are a number of initials and dates, ſome of them much earlier, but moſt of them correſponding to the time of the commonwealth, and the reign of Charles the Second. They are ſaid to have been the work of ſome of the Covenanters who took ſhelter about it, on the arbitrary proceedings and religious diſturbances of thoſe times. The years 1662 and 1666 are quite diſtinct, among many others. On 28th November 1666, at Rullion Green, a few miles north, the battle of Pentland Hills was fought, and the laſt of the party, that appeared in force, finally routed and diſperſed, in their way back towards this quarter.

The Building ſeems to have remained unaltered till the time of Sir David Forbes, brother to Duncan Forbes of Culloden, and uncle to the Preſident; when moſt of the old caſtle, and the religious houſe, if any of it remained, was pulled down, and the preſent double houſe erected in its ſtead, with a couple of wings projecting from the front, and walls from theſe to two pigeon-houſes at a conſiderable diſtance, connected by a handſome iron rail. On the ſouth-weſt ſide of this court was the garden called the Chapel-yard, mentioned by Mr Tytler, between and the weſtern ravine; which, beſides the beeches he deſcribes, had alſo, on the ſame ſide, a ſquare pond occupying its whole breadth, and

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on the ſouth, next the receſs, a row of laburnums, now of a large ſize. North of the court were the offices, and in front, up to the high road, diſtant about half a mile, extended an avenue pointing to that end of the neareſt hill, where, with an almoſt equal arch, and the ſame brightneſs of unbroken verdure, the northern hill of Spittal, on the other ſide of the Old Spittal Houſe, paſſes behind it, and dips from the view. At ſome diſtance from the pigeon-houſes, this was croſſed by another avenue at right angles, ſtretching ſouth-eaſt and north-weſt. Behind the houſe was a ſmall level green, ſurrounded by a terrace-walk, terminating in an arbour to the eaſt, beneath which are ſome very old elder or bowertrees, laburnums, and birdcherries. This arbour looks over the new waſhing-houſe, on the holm, and river winding far below, before it turns round the Steel, that like a gently inclined plain, croſſing an opening in the glen, ſhows its higher bank beyond, on this ſide of the lake. On the other ſide of the fartheſt Spittal Hill, the Eſk takes its riſe, and about a mile and a half weſt, forcing its way midſt rough and pointed rocks, in a deep ravine through the Pentland ridge, betwixt the ſouth hill of Spittal and Carlops, above where it is croſſed by a bridge under the high road, it turns directly eaſtward to the Frith of Forth. Above this bridge have been found ſeveral pieces of very rich iron ore; and a great way up the Carlops Hill, is a ſtrong petrifying ſpring. From this bridge, following the ſhape of a glen in which it is ſituated, runs a village, begun in 1784, with a triangular area at the turn of the paſs or den about its middle, and a ſtreet, ſtretching from it to the bridge, and alſo ſouthwards, forming part of the high road 60 feet wide. Moſt of the houſes are covered with tiles and ſlates. Having purled its way from the bridge, beneath the wooded craggs of the Spittal Hill, and a ſteep part of the high road called Woodbrae, the river winds

winds in deep ſequeſtered glades under the ſouth ſide of the houſe in its eaſtern direction and preſſes on towards Brunſtoune, Pennycuick, Old Woodhouſelee, Roſlin, Hawthornden, Melville Caſtle, and Dalkeith, where it is joined by the South Eſk, from Arniſton, Dalhouſie, Newbottle, &c. on its way to Invereſk, Muſſelburgh, and the Frith of Forth. The principal glen, at the back of the houſe, ſeparates Mid-Lothian from Tweedale, and Pennycuick pariſh from that of Linton; but beſides this one, within a mile beyond it, to the ſouth, there are three others, with each its diſtinct character and rivulet, all running parallel to it, and uniting their ſtreams, in ſucceſſion, below the Harbour Craig. Thus united, they join the Eſk between and the lower end of the Steel, at a little haugh about a quarter of a mile below the houſe, which, by taking a ſudden turn and circuit before they meet, they almoſt ſurround.

What makes theſe particulars intereſting, is, that at this time, when the property of Mr Forbes, this place was diſtinguiſhed by Allan Ramſay's attachment to it, as well as to the proprietor and his family, in conſequence of which it aſſiſted in forming, and was choſen by him for the ſcenes of that celebrated Paſtoral Comedy the Gentle Shepherd. 'While I paſſed my infancy at New Hall,' ſays Mr Tytler in his edition of King James's Poems, 'near Pentland 'Hills, *where the ſcenes of this paſtoral poem were laid*, the ſeat 'of Mr Forbes, and the reſort of many of the literati at that 'time, I well remember to have heard Ramſay recite, as his 'own production, different ſcenes of the Gentle Shepherd, 'particularly the *two firſt*, before it was printed. I believe 'my honourable friend, Sir James Clerk of Pennycuick, 'where Ramſay frequently reſided, and who, I know, is poſ-'ſeſſed of ſeveral original poems compoſed by him, can give 'the ſame teſtimony.—P. S. The above note was ſhown to

'Sir James Clerk, and had his approbation.' In ſummer 1788 Mr Tytler, when on a viſit to the preſent proprietor, enumerated among thoſe to whom he here referred, Preſident Forbes, Baron Sir John, and William Clerk his brother, of Pennycuick, Dr Clerk, and Provoſt Lindſay of Edinburgh, and alſo pointed out the room that had been uſually occupied by himſelf. Of the two firſt ſcenes particularly condeſcended on, and which indeed contain all the firſt act, and moſt of the pictureſque ſcenery in the poem. The firſt is,

Beneath the ſouth ſide of a craggy bield,
Where chriſtal ſprings the haleſome waters yield:

And the ſecond,

A flowrie howm between twa verdant braes,
Where laſſes uſe to waſh and ſpread their claiths;
A trotting burnie wimpling through the ground,
It's channel peebles ſhining ſmooth and round:

JENNY.

Come, Meg, let's fa' to wark upon this green,
This ſhinning day will bleach our linen clean;
The water clear, the lift unclouded blew,
Will mak them like a lily wet wi' dew.

PEGGY.

Gae farer up the burn to Habbie's How,
Where a' the ſweets of ſpring and ſimmer grow,
Between twa birks, out o'er a little lin,
The water fa's and maks a ſingand din;
A pool breaſt-deep, beneath as clear as glaſs:
Kiſſes wi' eaſy whirls the bord'ring graſs:
We'll end our waſhing while the morning's cool;
And when the day grows het, we'll to the pool,
There waſh ourſells.——

JENNY.

JENNY.

Daft laſſie, when we're naked, what'll ye ſay,
Gif our twa herds come brattling down the brae,
And ſee us ſae?——

Between the houſe and the little haugh, where the Eſk and the rivulets from the Harbour Craig meet, are ſome romantic grey craggs at the ſide of the water, looking up a turn in the glen, and directly fronting the ſouth. Their crevices are filled with birches, ſhrubs, and copſewood; the clear ſtream purles its way paſt, within a few yards, before it runs directly under them, and projecting beyond their baſes, they give compleat beild to whatever is beneath, and form the moſt inviting retreat imaginable. Farther up, the glen widens immediately behind the houſe, into a conſiderable green or holm, with the hanging burn, now more quiet, winding among peebles, in ſhort turns through it. At the head of this howm, on the edge of the ſtream, with an aged thorn behind them, are the ruins of an old waſhing houſe; and the place was ſo well calculated for the uſe it had formerly been applied to, that another more convenient one was built about twenty years ago, and is ſtill to be ſeen. Still farther up the burn, agreeable to the deſcription in the dialogue of the ſecond ſcene, the hollow beyond Mary's Bower, where the Eſk divides it in the middle, and forms a linn or leap, is named the How Burn; a ſmall incloſure above is called the Braehead park; and the hollow below the caſcade, with its bathing pool, and little green, its birches, wild ſhrubs, and variety of natural flowers in ſummer, with its rocks, and the whole of its romantic and rural ſcenery, coincides exactly with the deſcription of Habby's How. It was ſo deſigned, no doubt, to diſtinguiſh it from the upper diviſion of the How, either for the ſake of the verſe, and the alliteration or initial reſemblance, or which is more likely, becauſe ſome cottager of that name, in other parts of the poem called

Hab

Hab and Halbert, and a favourite in the family, had at that, or ſome former period, choſen this ſpot for the ſcite of his hut. There are ſtill the remains of a cottage on the top of the north bank, immediately over it, and the pool continues to be the favourite place for bathing. Farther up ſtill, the grounds beyond the How Burn, to the weſtward, called Carlops, a contraction for Carline's Loup, were ſuppoſed once to have been the reſidence of a Carline or Witch, who lived in a dell, at the foot of the Carlops Hill, near a pais between two conic rocks: from the oppoſite points of which ſhe was often obſerved at nights, by the ſuperſtitious and ignorant, bounding and friſking on her broom, acroſs the entrance. Not far from this, on a height to the eaſt, is a very ancient half withered ſolitary aſh tree, near the old manſion-houſe of Carlops, ove hanging a well, with not another of 30 years ſtanding in ſight of it; and from the open grounds to the ſouth, both it and the glen, with the village, and ſome decayed cottages in it, and the Carline's Loups at its mouth, are ſeen. Ramſay may not have obſerved, or referred to this tree, but it is a curious circumſtance that it ſhould be there, and ſo ſituated as to compleat the reſemblance to the ſcene, which ſeems to have been taken from the place.

Act II. Scene II.

The open field.—A cottage in a glen,
An auld wife ſpinning at the ſunney end.—
At a ſmall diſtance, by a blaſted tree,
With falded arms, and half-raiſed look ye ſee,
Bauldy his lane.

The tradition, the objects of the landſcape, and the poet's intimate acquaintance with every thing connected with his friends property, all tend to ſhow, that not only the ſcenery, but

but the ſtory itſelf, was in ſome meaſure borrowed from it. In the third act. Sir William Worthy laments the ruinous condition of many of the particulars which diſtinguiſhed the place in the time of Sir David Forbes, and had been the reſult of his taſte and attention. The avenues are not omitted, and even the tapeſtry which had covered two of the ſides of the Advocate's Room, that when the proprietor took poſſeſſion, were literally in the exact ſituation deſcribed at the beginning of the 3d act,

'——————; no chimney left,
'The naked walls of tap'ſtry all bereft,'

is taken notice of. The offices, and pigeon-houſes and gardens, gave riſe to the following exclamation in the ſame ſcene,

My ſtables and pavilions broken walls!
That with each rainy blaſt decaying falls:
My gardens once adorned the moſt compleat,
With all that nature, all that art makes ſweet, &c.
But overgrown with nettles, docks, and brier;
No jaccacinths or eglintines appear.

And if, as is preſumable, the name Worthy was given the proprietor, in compliment to Sir David Forbes, William has evidently been placed before it, in preference to any other Chriſtian name, merely for the ſake of alliteration. In 1784, after a viſit, the proprietor received the following verſes from Mr Bradefute author of the Statiſtical Account of Dunſyre, and late miniſter of that pariſh, a reſpectable and ingenious man, and who, from his intimacy with the late Sir James Clerk, was alſo well acquainted with whatever related to Ramſay's compoſitions, and to the Gentle Shepherd in particular. In theſe lines, the houſes of Glaud and Symon are ſuppoſed to have been the cottage at the foot of Monk's Burn; and that of Harleymuir, on the height on the other

ſide

ſide of the water above the Steel, and not far from the Harbour Craig. The firſt is very old, and only the foundation of the laſt is to be diſcovered, a little to the eaſt of the preſent one, ſeen from the lake. The verſes are entitled, A Morning Walk at New Hall in Mid-Lothian, the ſeat of Robert Brown, Eſq; Advocate.

Waked by the morning rays from fleeting dreams,
I leave the couch inviting to repoſe,
To trace the ſcenes which nature ſpreads around;
To pleaſe the eye or animate the ſoul,
With recollections drawn from ancient times.—
We enter firſt the glen adorned with trees,
Where varied ſhades and pleaſing groves delight
The warbling birds that perch on every ſpray.
The lulling murmurs of the diſtant Eſk,
At bottom of the woods ſalutes the ear;
Beyond, the riſing heights covered with woods,
And interſperſed with jutting rocks, invite
The eye to trace, in beauty's waving line,
The vivid landſcape, rich with deepening ſhades
Which here o'erhang the glaſſy glittering ſtream,
Till from the widening vale the country op's.—
The winding path now leads us thro' the wood,
Where Eſk pours forth her ſilver flowing ſtream
In ſweet retirement, and ſequeſtered ſhade.
We then approach the opening of the trees
Where now the ruſtic ſwain enjoys the banks,
Happy and blythe, not far his humble Cot,
Cloathed with the ſhining ſtraw, whoſe white-waſhed walls
Appear contraſted with the ivy's green.
Before the door the partner of his cares
Turns ſwift the wheel, and tunes the ſcottiſh ſong,

Eying

Eying aſkance her young ones on the graſs,
Leſt they too near approach the river's bank:
The cattle ſpread around now browſe the herbs,
Loaded with dews delightful to the taſte.
The watchful dog guards well the ripened corns,
And ſaves the treaſure for his maſter's uſe.
Near this a pleaſing riv'let glides along,
Falls from the height, and forms the bright caſcade,
Where hollow rocks ſurround the foaming pool,
And form a ſhade to ſcreen the mid-day ſun.—
From this we mount the bank to view the Lake,
With ſhining ſurface drawn from chryſtal ſprings,
Land locked and ſmooth, where oft the finny tribe
Riſe at the glittering fly with eager haſte.—
We now return and trace the river's banks,
Studded with cowſlips, and with copſewoods crowned.
Beyond, the proſpect 's barren all and wild,
With hollow glens and deep ſequeſtered lawns.
Now all at once, far up another glen,
Midſt awful ſolitudes and darkſome dells,
A high tremenduous rock erects his front:
On near approach we found it deeply mark'd,
With venerable names of theſe who fled,
In Charles's hapleſs days, the haunts of men,
Purſued by unrelenting bands who ſought
Their death, and waged ignoble war.
Here ſad the preacher ſtood with ſolemn pauſe,
To mark, with outſtretched arm, the ſombre heath,
The field of scottiſh and of engliſh wars;
Or what more near concerned the liſtening croud,
To point the fatal ſpot on Pentland Hills,
Where many a ploughman warrier fought and fell.—
Slowly we turn and leave theſe gloomy ſcenes,

Sacred

Sacred to ſighs and deepeſt heart felt woe,
To ſeek the pleaſing banks and purling rill
Where copſewood thickets cheer the wandering eye,
Where honeyſuckle with the birch entwines.—
We enter now from hence the weſtern glen
Through which the murm'ring Eſk pours forth his ſtream,
And view a paſt'ral and more pleaſing ſcene,
Sacred to fame, and deemed now Claſſic ground.
'Twas here a beautiful receſs was found;
And hence aroſe the ſcene of Habby's How;
Where now appears betwixt two birks the lin,
That falling forms the pool where bathed the maids,
Whilſt here upon the green their cloath they laid.
Here on a ſeat reclined, ſcreened from the ſun,
By hazle ſhrubs and honeyſuckle flowers
You ſit at eaſe and recollect the ſong,
While ſportive fancy imag'ry ſupplies.—
Following the ſtream we view the happy ſpots,
Where Glaud and Symon dwelt in times of old,
And paſſed the joke over the nut-brown ale;
Where old Sir William cheered poor Peggy's heart,
And gave her yielding to her Patie's arms.—
Thy pen, O Ramſay! Sweeteſt paſtoral bard!
Alone was fit to paint the pleaſing tale,
And teach mankind the charms of rural life!

Among the beſt of Ramſay's ſmaller productions are, An Ode to Mr Forbes, and ſome verſes on Mrs Forbes, late Lady New Hall, as ſhe is called, according to the faſhion of the time, whoſe maiden name, it appears, was Bruce. So fond he was of the place, that he begins his parady of one of Horace's Odes, as if ſeated at one of the front windows of the houſe, 'Look up to Pentland's tow'ring tops,' &c. and in an epiſtle

to

to Gay the poet, either from this, or Pennycuick, where his patrons, the Duke and Dutcheſs of Queenſberry, have their portraits, and were intimately acquainted, he addreſſes him thus:

To thee frae edge of Pentland height,
Where fawns and fairies take delight,
And rival a' the live lang night
O'er glens and braes,
A bard that has the ſecond ſight
Thy fortune ſpaes.

This is the only place, in the neighbourhood of the Pentland Range that looks up in front to theſe mountains. In the month of May, the bright green ſward of the Spittal Hill is often, on this ſide, half covered and ſtudded over with all the ewes of the farm, and their young ones, as white as ſnow, baſking above the river, in the face of the ſun, friſking and jumping about, or making the air reſound with their bleatings; whilſt the ſhepherd and his dog, laid on a neighbouring height, command the whole, and ſeek the cooling breeze. When, in a fine evening, from the front windows, in the month of July, the ſun, with glowing clouds innumerable, inclines towards the weſtern ſhoulder of the mountain, and his golden rays ſtream along its ſmooth and verdant ſurface, touching the ſlighteſt inequality, and deepening and extending every ſhadow; when at this time, the flock appears over the lawns and trees, from the other ſide, on its ſummit, and, ſpread like a white ſheet, gradually contracting deſcends into the bughts, about mid way down, where the milk-maids await, "and," as it is expreſſed in the 4th ſcene of the 2d act, "Roſie lilts the milking of the ewes," attended by the ſhepherd wrapt in his plaid, with his ſtaff and his dog; it is impoſſible not to join in the requeſt of the poet, in that beautiful old ſcottiſh melody, "Will you go to the

" ewe bughts ;" and a ſcene as rich, as truly paſtoral and ſublime, is frequently preſented to the eye, as ever was painted by Claude le Lorrain, or Thomſon could deſcribe. From theſe circumſtances, the manners, ideas, employments, language, and dreſs of the old inhabitants; the title of the former proprietor, by whom the houſe was built; Ramſay's intimacy with his ſon, and attachment to the place; the ſhelter there given to the covenanters before the reſtoration, which is commemorated with ſo much loyalty and exultation in the comedy; the mention made in it of General Monk; the tradition as to the witch in the glen at Carlops; the correſponding ſcenery at Habbie's How, and about the houſe; the number of ſtreams, birches, rocks, caſcades, and glens, with the natural ſhrubs, and flowers growing wild upon the banks, together with the ſuperior verdure and beauty of the neighbouring hills, particularly thoſe in the front of the houſe; the reader may eaſily trace, from whence have ſprung almoſt all the incidents and paſtoral ſcenery of the Gentle Shepherd, the moſt beautiful of our ſcottiſh poems.—That ſtriking ſcenery produces a very powerful effect upon the imagination; and, when it becomes an object of attachment, muſt influence, and give a correſponding character to the productions of a poet, as well as of a painter, is unqueſtionable. A collection of fine words may be made, and ſtrung mechanically together, as occaſion requires, into ſomething like a picture; but as it is the combination, and not the words themſelves, that produces the effect, it is from the ſtudy of nature only we can acquire thoſe impreſſions to be conveyed to the reader, in a ſtriking deſcription; and a poet, to excel in that branch of his art, muſt be alive to the charms of a good landſcape, muſt collect from nature alone ſuch objects as ſuit his purpoſe, in thoſe places where the greateſt number of them are to be met with; and in their diſtribution and colouring,

louring, muſt follow the ſame rules that that painter does, who purſues the only road to fame, in a ſimilar ſpecies of compoſition. If it is nature that is to be repreſented, either on paper or canvas, and a true likeneſs given, ſhe muſt ſit for her picture. In this caſe no violation of cuſtom or incongruity can ever take place. All Shenſtone's inſcriptions, and many of his other poems, are mere expreſſions of the feeling excited by the ſcenes among which he lived, and in which he delighted; and in this view, as containing the originals from whence his engaging deſcriptions were drawn, the Arcadian ſimplicity of the Leaſowes, has been a greater object of curioſity and intereſt, to people of genuine ſenſibility and taſte, than places crowded with the moſt expenſive ornaments. Beſides the national concern every Scotchman in particular muſt have, in whatever relates to a performance, which, as a paſtoral comedy, has not been ſurpaſſed, or perhaps equalled, in any language; in the ſame light, as the manners cannot be preſerved, it was deſirable to aſcertain, at leaſt, the ſpot from whence Ramſay had got thoſe paſtoral deſcriptions, and ſcenes, which are ſo inimitably and faithfully copied. Accordingly the Gentle Shepherd no ſooner drew admiration, than every trifling ſtreamlet, in the direction of the Pentland Hills, was honoured with a Habbie's How; and having once got the name fixed upon it, the whole ſcenery of the poem was applied to the neighbourhood, without producing any evidence, that Ramſay had ever reſided in the place, or had ever an opportunity of ſeeing the ſpot itſelf. Some forgetting even that Habbie's How was a place, "Where a' the ſweets of ſpring and ſummer grow," gave the name, as in the water of Glentroſs, to a ſpot which has nothing peculiar in itſelf or neighbourhood; which is away from all inhabitants, bare, and ſurrounded with marſhes; where there is ſcarcely a birch, or ſhrub, unleſs a ſtinted ſolitary thorn, or

rowan

rowan ſticking out, as if dropt, by accident, from a rock, deſerves the name; where not a flower, but that of whins, where the ſoil is dry, is to be found; and which Ramſay, from having no apparent connection with it, or its neighbourhood, in all probability never ſaw, or even heard of, in his life. On this account, to remove the diſagreeable and unpleaſant ſenſations ariſing from every ſpecies of uncertainty, and as a matter of curioſity, it has been endeavoured to fix, with preciſion, from whence the ſcenes of the Gentle Shepherd were drawn. Although unconnected with the honour and hiſtory of Scotland, ſuch a ſubject is amuſing, and as a matter of curioſity may lead to improvement. Curioſity is one of our earlieſt and ſtrongeſt incitements to action; it is the only road to wiſdom; it is the prime mover of philoſophers, as well as of children; it is lively, entertaining, and innocent in its gratification; and what is the end of all our purſuits, even the moſt important, but the gratification of ſome one of thoſe paſſions or appetites ariſing from external objects, through the mediums of perception and emotion, which conſtitute the very eſſence of our being, and without which life itſelf is beyond our comprehenſion? At this time New Hall, Carlops, and Spittal, all belonged to Mr Forbes; and it is ſomewhat remarkable, that, while Allan Ramſay was encouraged by him, and Gay the poet was patroniſed by the intimate friends of Sir James Clark at Pennycuick, the Duke and Dutcheſs of Queenſberry, his couſin, Preſident Forbes, was the chief ſupport of Thomſon, who might often have been here along with him, and was alſo diſtinguiſhed for the accuracy and engaging ſimplicity, as well as richneſs, of his deſcriptions of rural life and ſcenery.

Theſe properties, on the death of Mr Forbes, were diſjoined, but are now again united; the fartheſt of the glens behind has been flooded, from the Harbour Craig upwards,

and

and the banks are about to be covered with wood. An enriched obeliſk has been raiſed on the higheſt part of the lawn, betwixt and Mary's Bower, and a ruſtic hut near it, on a bold point on the brink of the glen. The incloſures and pleaſure grounds, towards the road and hills in front, and the plantations have been much extended, both down to the lake and up towards the village, near which, on an eminence at the foot of the hills, a romantic and arcadian ſcite has been choſen, for a monument, to their favourite paſtoral Bard. The pigeon-houſes, chapel yard, offices, and railed-in court, are gone, the Rail now ſurrounding the houſe of Parſon's Green, formerly Parſon's Knows, that gave title to one Logan a juryman, on the trial of Archibald Douglas parſon of Glaſgow, for the murder of King Henry, (ſee Arnot's Trials). A ſquare of offices are ſubſtituted for the old ones, and placed at the head of a new garden, above the other old one beyond the eaſtern receſs. A large addition to the houſe, behind, with butreſſes and pinnacles, and pointed windows, in the Gothic Chapel taſte, from a deſign of the proprietor's own, is juſt compleating. It looks over the bottom of the eaſtern ravine, and the flat part of the Steel, through the opening between the wooded point below the garden and the other ſide of the glen alſo covered with trees, to the higher bank of the river beyond, raiſed and darkened with pines that croſſes it, and draws a ſkreen between and the lake. The body of the houſe and wings remain, though much altered within, and the old finiſhing is ſtill left entire, in what is called the Advocate's Room, the ſpaces that had been formerly covered with tapeſtry, being filled up with wooden pannels, ſimilar to thoſe on the other ſides. On the ceiling of the ſtair-caſe is a vacant ſpace, which was once occupied by a painting of Ganymede and the Eagle, and two ſtone Buſts of Pan and his wife ſcolding, well executed, are removed

ed from somewhere about the house, to the foot of the garden. Besides some copies in the rooms, are a landscape and thunder storm, with cattle and figures, by Tempesta, a view through a rock by Marterell, a Moon Light by Vandermeer, a Piper by Teniers, St Francis in extacy by A. Carracci, a Mendicant by Spagniolet, &c. together with a Sea-piece of some merit, which is the only old ornament left in one of the walls above the fire-place. At Monk's Haugh a fulling mill and dyehouse, and below Harbour Craig a lint mill has been built. On the other side of the garden is a large field, called the Greenbrae park, opposite to the Steel and Harleymuir, which descends to the river, fronting the south, and that has been about 50 years in grass. In consequence of a competition with two gentlemen in the lowest parts of East and Mid-Lothian as to the quality of their pastures, a Wedder of two years old, that had been bred on the Harleymuir, of the Linton black faced kind, was fed other two years in that field, getting the common run of the flock; and being killed in December 1787, one of the quarters, with the kidney, was produced, with those of the other two gentlemen's, at the French Tavern, Edinburgh; and was adjudged by a Club to which the parties belonged, as also by Mr Bayle, the landlord, to be the best of the three. The quarter, before roasting, with the kidney, was 24 lb. Dutch weight, and there was 1 stone, trone weight, of tallow, including all that was to be found in the inside of the whole Wedder. On the south side of the two rocks of Carlops, a small valley, called the Carlop's Dean, crosses the glen behind, in which the village stands. Opposite to the pass formed by the rocks, it is open and wide, and the south bank low and flat, with a hollow in it, called Charles's Nick. It is narrower, and the sides higher and steeper to the west, with the Carlop's Burn running through it, and to the east it gradually deepens, till it becomes

comes the ſecond parallel glen behind the houſe. The Carlop's Glen connects it with the Eſk at the village, making a paſs between the two, and the glen, deſcending from the Harbour Craig, receives the ſtream at its loweſt extremity, and unites them betwixt the houſe and the Steel. Weſt from the rocks, the Dean runs along the foot of the Carlop's Hill its whole length, and aſſumes a paſtoral and ſingular appearance. From the flat at the bottom riſe three little green hills, at equal diſtances from each other, and alſo at equal diſtances from the two ſides of the Dean, called the Holehaugh Know, Dun Kaim, and the Picket Craig. The firſt and laſt are almoſt perfect cones, covered with dry green turf, and of the ſame ſize, with this only difference, that the laſt is ſharper than the other, with a rocky ſummit full of little caverns. Dun Kaim is triple the ſize of the end ones, is of a long oval ſhape, likewiſe covered with dry ſmooth turf, and in the middle is quite flat on the top. It, and the Holehaugh Know, are ſeen from the public road. All the high banks and ſcenery around, is of the ſame uniform verdure; and all the tranſitions, except the ſummit of the Picket Craig, and the ſharp point of the Know, are gradual and undulating. On the middle top of Dun Kaim it is propoſed to erect the monument to Ramſay. From the bank below the Carlop's Hill, between the Know and Dun Kaim, deſcends, in a high caſcade, a ſmall rivulet called the Lin Burn, that after running over ſtrata of iron, and red and white limeſtone, immediately joins the Carlop's Burn, on the other ſide of the Dean. On the top of the ſame bank, oppoſite to Dun Kaim, and in a parallel direction, and at equal diſtances, are ſeven natural pits or excavations of different depths; and betwixt theſe and the Dean, the bank is compoſed of another ſtratum of lime ſtone, of a clouded mixture of greyiſh green, white, and pink colours. Farther on, and a little beyond the

Picket

Picket Craig, is a cavern, from whence iſſues a clear rill, which was made by a ſearch for lead that was attended with ſome ſucceſs, an old ſmith having ſeen ſome ſilver that had been extracted from it, but which was afterwards dropt. The little caves, on the ſteep ſummit of the Picket Craig, are ſo deep, that a hare being puſhed by the greyhounds, in courſing, a few years ago, and having taken to one of them, was got out, with the aſſiſtance of a terrier, with the greateſt difficulty. Over all theſe, fronting the ſouth, riſes with an arch, the Carlop's Hill; the ſame bank however, continues behind one of the rocks, which is a projection from it to the Eſk, and the inclined plain above it at the bottom of the hill, directly over the village, is called the Lead Flats. Out of the ſmall diſtrict of country between this bank called Lead Flats, and a ſmooth round hill betwixt and Linton, called Leadlaw Hill, all the ſilver is ſaid to have been got, from the lead found there, with which Mary of Guiſe, Queen Mary's mother, paid her troops, during the turbulence of her Regency. At the foot of the Dean, eaſtward, before it contracts and deepens into a glen, is a ſubterranean ſpring, called the Rumbling Well, which appears near half a mile ſouth, on the other ſide of a lime quarry, where, in conſequence of a diſpute between two of the workmen, about 12 years ago, a glove being put into it, was carried all the way through, and came out at the place firſt mentioned. The ſtream belonging to the third glen, that meets the laſt one at the Harbour Craig, in conſequence of the workings of the coal, although a much greater body of water, likewiſe diſappears, about a quarter of a mile above that rock, and ſuddenly burſts out with a fall, almoſt in front of one of its ſides. The lime-rock at the Rumbling Well is of a dark grey colour, almoſt black, with a great number of white ſhells, reſembling ſkrew-nails, of different ſizes, through it; and is in ſuch large blocks, and ſo ſolid, that

that one of the chimney pieces in the houſe made from it, has a poliſh equal to any foreign marble. Between the third parallel glen and the laſt one, is a very extenſive field of coal now working behind that rock, called the Harbour Craig coal; and in the laſt glen is a ſtratum of freeſtone, different from thoſe of Mairfield, and Monk's Burn, of a good quality. In the ſecond glen, a crumbling freeſtone rock, the whole depth of the bank, produces a face of pure white ſand, upon which nothing will grow. Between and the Rumbling Well, as alſo on the north ſide of the houſe, was found a large piece of diamond ſpar, and above the limeſtone, ſouth of the well, is a thick bed of clay marl. In digging gravel, with which the little eminences are commonly filled, have been got, particularly on the eaſt ſide of Monk's Burn, and between and the Spittal Hills, pebbles and bloodſtones, ſome of which have been cut into very beautiful ſeals. Immediately above the chalybeate ſpring, or Monk's Burn, is a thin ſtratum of lime, with a bed of blue till over it, in which have been found the entire petrified ſhells mentioned elſewhere, moſt of which are in the proprietor's poſſeſſion. Beyond the Spittal Hills, and on the ſide of the Eſk at the foot of them, below the junction of two rivulets, is a ſmall valley, with ſome little green mounts riſing out of it; and at the extremity of the grounds to the north, on an eminence commanding the whole track of the Forth, from Inch Keith upwards, is a grey ſtone appearing above the heath, called the Boar Stane. On this ſide of the hills, though the ſhooting is much hurt by its proximity to the capital, there are a conſiderable number of groufe, as alſo on the Harleymuir to the ſouth. In the Eſk there is good fiſhing, though moſt of the trouts are ſmall; but in the Mairfield Loch are ſome large fiſh, and the perches are in ſuch abundance, that two rods have been known to catch 24 dozen in a couple of hours. The partridges are

plenty, particularly in the ſpots of corn a little way up the hills, from whence, as they always fly downwards, they are eaſily marked in. There are numbers of ſnipes in the ruſhy places below, and the hares are very numerous, but afford little ſport, from the proximity of the woods, glens, and hills, to one or other of which they take, immediately on being ſtarted. The indigenous plants are chiefly oak, aſh, elm, aſpen, Scotch pine, and ſpruce fir, which are beginning to ſow themſelves; birch, which is the prevailing wood, rowan, geen, ſallow, alder, birdcherry, hazle, black and white thorn, of the laſt of which, in particular, there are ſome very beautiful and venerable buſhes, elder, brier, juniper, bramble, raſp, honeyſuckle, ivy, common and evergreen bilberry, cranberry, crowberry, the carduus helenioides, and on the top of the Carlop's Hill, which is the only one of the Pentland range on which it is to be met with, the cloudberry. The animals are, foxes, hares, a few rabbits, ermines, weaſels, moles, rats, common and ſhrew mice, adders, ſcaly lizards, the common lizard, toads, frogs, &c. and bats are ſeen fluttering giddily about in the evenings. At times are ſeen gulls from the Frith, alſo, overhead, wild ſwans and geeſe, and a variety of the white dunghill fowl, with large creſt and comb, has appeared with 11 toes. On the lake is the wallard, teal, colymbus auritus, one of the dobchicks. On the ſtreams, the heron, water rail, water ouzel, ſandpiper, and wagtails. On the marſhes, the ſnipe, the woodcock in winter, the reed ſparrow, the marſh titmouſe. On the rocks, the ring ouzel, which has a few ſhrill plaintive notes, and very much the appearance and manner of a blackbird, and the ſtonechatter. On the moors are grouſe; one of theſe being almoſt ſhot to pieces, its ſtomach was entirely filled with white moths, very common among long heath, curlews, lapwings, and grey plovers. On the fields, the hen harrier, partridges, land rails,

ſky

ſky larks, corn buntings, ſnow buntings, field fares, mountain finches, and the goatſucker, or night ſwallow. In the hedges, common and hdge ſparrows. In the woods. the buzzard, ſparrow-hawk, jay, magpie, crow, ring-dove, of which there are great numbers, cuckoo; a young cuckoo was ſeen at the head of Monk's Burn, flying after a titlark, from which it got the ſignals when to keep out of danger, by following his guardian and guide; it was alſo frequently obſerved feeding him, when the little nurſe, to get at his mouth, generally leapt on his back, and made him turn round his head, which was as big as the other's whole body. The croſsbill, attracted by the cones of the ſpruce, the plates of which, to get at the ſeed, are found in numbers folded back with great dexterity; the bullfinch, ſtirling, thruſh, blackbird, redbreaſt, linnet, all the finches, and titmice, including the blue and the long tailed one, alſo a very ſmall and beautiful bird, the creeper, like a little mouſe running up the trees for inſects; the yellow, common and golden creſted wrens; the ſwallows about the houſe, in ſummer, and in the woods, at nights, the owl, horned and ſmooth. In 1784, a hoopoe was ſhot by a gentleman, in coming here from the Whim, in the Pariſh of Newlands, a little to the ſouth.

To the above Appendix the following obſervations are requeſted to be added: After the word *deſcribo*, page 618, line 3, add, The wawking of the faulds, gives the tune to the very firſt ſong which opens the play under conſideration, and was naturally pitched upon, where ſuch an occurrence is alſo often and ſo ſtrikingly exhibited,—p. 601, l. 5, for freight

read

read fright.—do. line 7. for proprietors, read proprietor.—p. 603, l. 24, for hill read rill.—p. 608, l. 9, for ſouth-eaſt and north-weſt, read ſouth-weſt and north-eaſt.—p. 605, for fruis caſis, read fruiſcaris.—p. 617, l. 7. for rival read revel.—do. l. 22, for inclines read declines.—After the word ſcenery, p. 620, read the following ſentence: Ramſay was an enthuſiaſt in ſcottiſh muſic, and beſides his own, which are numerous, he has made a large collection of ſongs wrote by others of his countrymen; and it was in all probability from his connections with him, that Gay, whoſe genius, originally, ſeems to have been of a very ſimilar caſt, has ſhown his attachment to our tunes in his celebrated play of the Beggar's Opera.—To the deſcription of Leadlaw Hill, add, And the excavations made in conſequence of working the metals, at the ſouthern extremity on the north ſide of the Leadlaw Hill, are ſtill called by the inhabitants, the ſiller (ſilver) holes.

NUM.

NUMBER II.

ADDENDA,

Relative to the Account of the Pariſh of Latheron, *in Caithneſs, page* 24.

On the celebrated eſtate of Langwell is the FOREST, or ORD of Caithneſs, of which there is the following account in M'Farlane's Geographical Collections M. S. in the Advocate's Library.

'THE hill of the *Ord* is that which divides Sutherland 'and Caithneſs. The march is a ſmall rivulet, called '*The Burn of the Ord of Caithneſs*, which takes its riſe from 'ſome ſprings near the top of the hill. The ſouth ſide of 'the hill is very ſteep, ſloping all along to the top of a rock, 'which is many fathoms high. Croſs the ſouth ſide of this 'hill is the common paſſage to and from this country. The 'road hath not been ſo very dangerous, as at firſt view it 'would appear to the traveller; for the whole face of the 'hill, to the top of the rock, has been covered with long 'heath; ſo that, though a perſon's foot might ſlip, he was 'not in great danger; but whether, through moor-burning, 'or ſome other accident, it hath happened ſome few years 'ago, that the heath was all burnt, and now it looks more 'frightful than formerly; but the road, by the pains of SIR

'JAMES

'JAMES SINCLAIR of Dunbeath, is made ſo broad, that 3 'horſes can conveniently ride it abreaſt. A little to the eaſt 'of the Burn of the Ord, which is the march, there is a 'pleaſant green moat, called the Dunglaſs, as high as the 'top of the rock. Since the heath was burnt, paſſengers, 'who obſerve, may ſee the veſtiges of a ditch, digged up 'from the moraſſes, about a mile above the top of the fore-'ſaid rock. The top of the Ord is large 9 miles, of bad 'road, to the ſouth-weſt of the church.'

A NUM-

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF TIBBERMUIR.

(PRESBYTERY AND COUNTY OF PERTH.—SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING).

By the Rev. Mr JOHN INGLIS, *Miniſter.*

Name.

AMONG ſtrangers, and in the common almanacks of the country, the name of this pariſh is *Tippermuir*; but the orthography adopted in the title, which is univerſally in uſe among the inhabitants, is abundantly juſtified by ancient writings, and the probable etymology of the name. In a charter granted to the monaſtery of Scone, in the reign of William the Lion *, it is written with the Latin termination *Tibbirmora*; and in Fordun's Hiſtory of Scotland, it is *Tybirmore*: Conformably to this ancient orthography, the name is underſtood to be compounded of two Gaelic words, *tuber* and *more*, which ſignify a large well, referring probably to a plentiful ſpring of water immediately adjoining to the church-yard.

Extent, Situation, and Surface.—The pariſh is, from eaſt to weſt, about 6 miles long; and its breadth varies from one to three miles. It is bounded on the eaſt by the pariſh of Perth; on

* See the chartulary of Scone in the Advocate's Library.

on the north, the river Almond separates it from the parish of Redgorton, and a brook called the Farrow from that of Methven; on the west, it is bounded by the parish of Gask, and on the south, by those of Tortevoit and Aberdalgy. The surface, without being hilly, is considerably diversified. Towards the west, it exhibits a gentle slope from south to north, terminating in a narrow track of level ground; and towards the east, the greater part of the fields being somewhat raised above the level of the Almond, command, by a gentle descent, with a delightful variety, a view of the banks of the river.

Climate and Diseases.—The air, though rather moist, is not accounted unhealthy; and it deserves particular notice, that here, as well as in the neighbouring parishes, the ague, which, from time immemorial, had been the most common disease of the country, has, within these 20 years, completely disappeared, without any natural cause of sufficient importance being hitherto assigned for it.

Lakes, Soil, Proprietors, and Cultivation.—The parish contains about 1960 Scotch acres; of these 480 are under wood, 960 are part of an extensive moss, which furnishes the surrounding inhabitants with peats for fuel; 100 more are in the state of uncultivated heath, and the remainder, about 4289, are all arable ground.

The cultivated land contains several varieties of soil. Towards the east, upon the banks of the Almond, it is a sandy loam; near to the town of Perth, somewhat of a clayey consistence; and upon the higher grounds, more light and thin, with a gravelly bottom. Towards the west, the bottom is rather cold, and generally tilly, which occasions many of the fields to be wet; but the surface soil is, notwithstanding, tolerably fertile; and though, in some places, it partakes a little

little of the nature of moss, the greater part may be classed under one or other of the different kinds of loam.

The whole parish, excepting about 500 acres, is the property of the Duke of Athol and the Earl of Kinnoull; and the land is cultivated by about 60 farmers, great and small, in a thriving condition. In no place, perhaps, are the late rapid improvements in agriculture more remarkably examplified than in this particular parish. About 30 years ago, it was distinguished by its poverty; at present its surface exhibits to the eye a rich and fertile prospect, and the increased wealth of the inhabitants very properly appears in their improved manner of living. It is also pleasant to remark, that the spirit for agricultural improvement still appears to keep pace with, if it does not even anticipate, the farmer's acquisition of wealth. In one particular view, indeed, the character of the farmer's mind has undergone a most important and happy change: Formerly, he was so obstinately prejudiced in favour of the practice of his fathers, that he could not listen, without a sneer, to any suggestion relative to new improvements; now his prejudices are so completely removed, that he is eager to know and understand whatever improvements others are attempting, and even to adopt such as appear to be reasonable, though at first upon that small scale which prudence undoubtedly dictates. What better subject could the Agricultural Society desire to cultivate, than a farmer's mind in this particular state?*

* While the present proprietors vie with one another, in promoting this laudable spirit, it is impossible not to remember the late Earl of Kinnoull, as the father of agricultural improvement, in that extensive district of the parish, which, from its local situation, and other circumstances, appeared least susceptible of such melioration. By a liberal treatment of his tenants;

The principal crops are oats, barley or bear, and clover with rye-graſs. Wheat alſo, though not hitherto univerſally cultivated, is becoming every year more common. A prejudice was long entertained againſt ſowing wheat upon fields that are naturally wet, from an idea that ſuch a ſoil, when ſwelled with the winter rains, would be apt to caſt out the roots of the young plants; but experience has clearly ſhewn that this objection, however ſpecious in theory, is not entitled to much practical regard;—where early ſowing has been attended to, the wetneſs of the ſoil has ſeldom, if ever, proved fatal to the crop of wheat. Peaſe and beans having been found precarious crops, are rather leſs cultivated than they were ſome time ago. Turnips, though not altogether neglected, are neither a general crop, nor raiſed in great quantities. Where the fields are wet, the farmer is afraid of poaching the ſoil, in carting them off during the winter; beſides, the conſumption of the butcher market of Perth is by no means equal to the ſupply of fat cattle which the wide and rich country around is capable of affording; and many farmers, who might otherwiſe have large fields of turnips, are thereby induced to content themſelves with ſuch a quantity as they find to be uſeful in rearing their young ſtock. The quantity of potatoes is inconſiderable, being cultivated chiefly for family uſe. Flax is by no means a crop high in the farmer's eſtimation; beſides the trouble attending it, it has

tenants;—by granting them improving leaſes upon moderate terms;—by lodging them in more comfortable houſes than had been formerly allowed to people of their condition;—by perſonal attentions, in which he did not fail to diſtinguiſh the moſt deſerving;—by manifeſting, equally in his words and actions, the intereſt he felt in their proſperity;—he infuſed into them a ſpirit ſuperior to their former condition, gradually enlarged their views, raiſed, in ſome ſenſe, their rank in ſociety, and thus prepared them to deviſe and execute ſuch plans of improvement as man, in a more depreſſed ſituation, will never attempt.

has the peculiar disadvantage of adding nothing to the dung-hill, which must undoubtedly be an important objection with farmers who purchase dung in the town of Perth, at the rate of 3 s. or 4 s. for the cart load, and afterwards carry it in some instances five or six miles *.

Since the late rapid introduction of fallow, wheat, clover, &c. in this parish, there has not been sufficient time for any particular rotation of crops obtaining such a decided preference, as to be universally adopted; but the following is the rotation most likely to prevail:—*1st*, year, fallow;—*2d*, wheat, with the whole dung of the farm, and also lime occasionally;—*3d*, peas, or clover and rye-grass, and perhaps a few turnips, which are found to answer tolerably well without dung;—*4th*, barley or bear;—*5th*, clover and rye-grass;—*6th*, oats †.

The implements of husbandry have been gradually improving for many years. The old Scotch plough, indeed, long maintained its ground in opposition to a variety of others, which were successively tried and abandoned; but an English plough, with a mould-board of cast metal, which was lately

* Lime is the only other manure used in the parish, and is procured at a reasonable rate, at the port of Perth.

† One objection, indeed, seems already to occur against this mode of management, and may hereafter have influence. Repeated fallows, that admit of no crop for the season, are not perhaps absolutely necessary for the mere purpose of keeping the land clean, provided that green crops, and particularly drill crops, be judiciously introduced; and though it should even be found impossible, upon some soils, to raise a good crop of wheat without a previous fallow, it may admit of a question, whether a crop of barley in place of the wheat, together with a green crop in place of the fallow, might not be more valuable than the crop of wheat that would be thereby superseded; and whether the land might not also remain in equally good, if not better condition.

lately introduced, has obtained a decided preference, and is now almost universally in use*.

Upon the wet grounds, the seed time is often retarded by rains. In the year 1795, many of the farmers had it not in their power to begin the sowing of oats till the month of May; but this year, viz. 1796, some oats have been sown in the first week of March—the one the latest, and the other perhaps the earliest seed time that is remembered. In ordinary seasons, the sowing of oats is begun in the first week of April, barley in the first week of May, and wheat about the middle of September. The improvement of the soil, and the practice of a more regular husbandry, have rendered our harvest season somewhat earlier than formerly. It is common to begin cutting wheat about the end of August; barley in the beginning of September; and the other corn in course, without intermitting the harvest work. The average crop of oats upon a Scotch acre is 5 bolls; of barley 7; of wheat 9, all Linlithgow measure. About 1 boll and 2 pecks of oats produce a boll of meal. The average price of oat meal, barley, and peale, is 15 s. for the boll; of wheat one guinea †.

Nearly all the farms are inclosed, and subdivided with ditches and hawthorn hedges, but all the inclosures of this kind are hitherto insufficient; and this, it is believed, must continue to be the case, till much more effectual means be employed for protecting and rearing the young hedges, and especially for saving their shoots from being croped by the farmer's

* The plough alluded to does not appear to have any distinguishing name that is generally known. It is not Small's plough.

† These may perhaps be accounted the average prices, without making allowance for the extraordinary prices of crops 1794 and 1795.

farmer's cattle. At preſent, the inſufficiency of the incloſures appears to be attended with leſs inconvenience, becauſe there is very little of the land in the ſtate of paſturage; but perhaps the want of ſufficient incloſures is one great reaſon why the paſture fields are ſo few; for wherever there is incloſed ground in the neighbourhood, the proprietor finds it in his power, by keeping it in paſture, and letting it annually for the ſeaſon, to draw ſuch a high rent as is out of all due proportion to the rent of corn land.

The valued rent of the pariſh is 4921 l. Scotch money *; the real rent, about 3200 l. Sterling. The average rent of the Scotch acre is about 15 s. Sterling.

Manufactures.—To the enterpriſe and induſtry of very early times †, we are indebted for a large canal or water-lead, drawn from the river Almond, which interſects an extenſive meadow, called Ruthven or Huntingtower-haugh, in the eaſt end of the pariſh; and the peculiar advantage which this affords for manufacturing eſtabliſhments, has been very induſtriouſly improved within theſe late years. One of the firſt manufactures attempted here was that of paper; and at the mill erected for this purpoſe, Moriſon and Lindſay of Perth at preſent keep two vats employed in the manufacture chiefly of the coarſer articles, ſuch as cartridge, blue, and other packing papers; the quantity manufactured in one year is from 5000 to 6000 reams, and the number of perſons employed in the work from 25 to 30. The canal, however, and the adjacent grounds, offered more diſtinguiſhed advantages

* In the ceſs-books of the county, the valued rent of this pariſh is ſtated ſomewhat higher, becauſe ſome lands, which are now conſidered as belonging to another pariſh, are there included in the calculation.

† See the article *Antiquities*.

tages to the manufacturer in other departments; and accordingly a bleachfield, under the firm of Richardson and Co. whose buildings and machinery were erected here in the year 1775, has become a very large and important concern. The brown cloth to be bleached is brought chiefly from Perth, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, and Glasgow; but such is the increasing character of the field, and the high reputation of the acting partner of the company, that, for some years past, a considerable quantity of diapers in particular, have been regularly sent to him from Darlington in England. About 70 Scotch acres are commonly covered with cloth, and the work employs or maintains about 100 men, women, and children. There are also some other fields in this parish, employed as bleaching ground, in connection with a work, whose buildings and machinery are in the parish of Perth *. And it ought not, perhaps, here, to remain unobserved, that at present the quantity of cloth bleached in the neighbourhood of Perth, far exceeds the quantity that is woven or otherwise manufactured in the town and district around. This would lead us to presume, either that there must be something in the situation peculiarly favourable to the operation of bleaching, or that nothing is wanted but equal enterprise in the other departments: And that the last supposition may be the just one, is rendered probable, by the uncommon success of some late attempts, of which a remarkable example naturally presents itself in the case of a printfield, under the firm of *Young, Ross, Richardson, and Carr* †, which was established in this parish upon the same canal, so lately as the year 1792, and has already become an object of such importance, as to be entitled to a distinguished place in

* Tulloch bleachfield, upon the same canal.

† Ruthven printfield.

in this ſtatiſtical report. A bleachfield upon a ſmall ſcale gave way to this more important work on the ſite of it; and additional ground having been procured, as well as additional houſes erected, the work already employs about 250 men, women, and children. The ſpirit and ſucceſs, with which the buſineſs is here conducted, may be judged of by the following inſtance: In the year 1793, when the general ſtagnation of credit, and the want of market for cotton goods in particular, induced many of the principal manufacturers, either to diſmiſs a part of their working people, or to reſtrict their employment to 3 or 4 days in the week, the managers of this printfield, though then but an infant Company, rejected ſuch an expedient, and at the ſame time adopted another well worthy of being imitated, if the ſame neceſſity ſhould again occur. Inſtead of diſmiſſing any of their people, or reſtricting their days of working, they made a ſmall reduction, for the time, in the rate of wages, which enabled them more eaſily to keep the uſual number of hands in conſtant employment; and while, in this way, the earnings of the working people were leſs impaired, the full benefit of their induſtry was preſerved to the public, and the vices that ariſe from idleneſs happily prevented. This work derives much advantage from the ſtaple manufacture of the country around being cloth of ſuch kinds as are adapted to the purpoſe of printing, and from a ſafe, regular, and expeditious conveyance of goods to the London market, by means of the ſmall veſſels that are employed in carrying ſalmon from the port of Perth. Beſides theſe things, the whole country around Perth affords peculiar encouragement to manufacturers of every deſcription, from the average prices of corn and butcher's meat being here conſiderably lower than in the weſt of Scotland, which is at preſent the principal ſeat of manufactures,—an advantage naturally derived from the ſuperior

extent

extent and fertility of the country, compared to the population of the town and its neighbouring villages. The high price of coals is perhaps the only peculiar disadvantage that attends the manufacturers of this district; and even this disadvantage has been considerably lessened by the wisdom of the Legislature, in abolishing the duty upon sea-borne English coals.

Wages.—The average yearly wages of a ploughman are 9 l. and of a maid servant 3 l. with board or maintenance to each; the average day wages of a callico printer are 3 s. of a bleacher 1 s. *; of an ordinary labourer 1 s. and 2 d. all without board.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which is an old building, has been lately repaired and rendered convenient. The manse was built in the year 1744, and has been repaired at different times. The stipend, in consequence of a late augmentation, consists of 8 chalders of meal and bear, and 35 l. sterling, together with 100 l. Scots of communion element-money. The King is patron. The ministers, from the reformation downwards, have been Alexander Young †, Alexander Balneavis, sen. Alexander Balneavis, jun. ‡, David Meldrum,

* Bleachers have commonly in their power to earn somewhat more, by working some hours extraordinary.

† Mr Alexander Young was prior of the Carmelite Monastery of Tullilum, (mentioned under the head of antiquities) and, upon embracing the reformed religion, was admitted minister of Tibbermuir. See *Perth Hospital Records.*

‡ It is worthy of observation, that Messrs Balneavis, father and son, were ministers of this parish for the space of 100 years, notwithstanding that the son did not die minister here, but was removed at the period of the revolution. See *Perth Presbytery Records.*

Meldrum, Patrick Duncan, Alexander Duff, and John Inglis, the preſent incumbent.

State of the Poor.—There are no begging poor in the pariſh; but there are commonly about 12 penſioners on the roll of the kirk-ſeſſion, to whom every allowance is made for rendering them comfortable, that would not operate to the diſcouragement of induſtry. Beſides the intereſt of 60 l. Sterling, and the collections at the church, &c. a ſmall parochial aſſeſſment is made for their better ſupport; one half of which is paid by the heritors, and the other by the farmers, &c. the mode of the aſſeſſment being regulated by an act and recommendation of the county, founded upon the different acts of Parliament relative to the poor. It is pleaſant to remark, that the kirk-ſeſſion never find cauſe to reject any application for charity, none being ever made without real neceſſity.—Long may the lower claſſes of people in Scotland be diſtinguiſhed by that laudable pride of independence, which makes them ſtruggle to the laſt, to maintain themſelves on the fruit of their labour, rather than depend unneceſſarily on the charity of others!

Table of Population, &c.

Number of ſouls in 1755,	988
1796,	1282
Males	638
Females	650
Under 10 years of age	336
From 10 to 20	257
From 20 to 50	536
From 50 to 70	129
From 70 to 80	20

Upwards of 80	1
Families	271
Married persons	396
Widowers	20
Widows	33
Unmarried householders	29
Antiburghers	302
Burghers *	22
Masons	11
Wrights	21
Weavers	24
Shoemakers	6
Taylors	7
Male farm-servants	114
Female-servants	65
Horses	290
Cattle	766
Sheep	18
Swine	14
Carts	175
Ploughs	105

Antiquities.—The canal, already mentioned under the article of *manufactures*, can be traced to a very early period, which, compared with the nature of the work, must give it importance in the view of the antiquary. It is nearly 18 feet broad, 3 feet deep, and, according to the course of the water, about 4½ miles long; and though its source be in this parish, through which it also runs for about 3 miles, it appears to have been originally intended for the benefit of

* There are a few dissenters of other classes than the two above mentioned.

the town of Perth, where it not only ſerves the corn-mills, and ſupplies the inhabitants with water, but has alſo contributed, probably, in former times, to ſtrengthen the fortifications of the place; for, when it approaches Perth, it divides itſelf into two branches, which ſurround the town in a deep bed, cloſe to the ſite of the ancient walls. But it is chiefly in its connection with the corn-mills, that we are enabled to trace its antiquity. The mills of Perth, as ſerved by this canal, or lead, having been originally the property of the kings of Scotland, are mentioned by them in ſeveral very ancient charters; and in the year 1244, we find Alexander II. granting to the Monaſtery of Black Friars of Perth, a pipe of water from this canal, which he there denominates *his* Mill-lead, conformably to the name of *The King's Lead*, which it ſtill bears *. Upon this evidence alone, the canal in queſtion may undoubtedly be ranked among the earlieſt work of utility in our country, of which we ſtill enjoy the advantage. It is difficult, indeed, to give credit *to our own anceſtors at ſo early a period*, for all the enterpriſe and induſtry which it required. And when we recollect its probable deſign, originally, as an aid to the fortifications of Perth, it will not perhaps be unnatural to ſuppoſe it a *Roman* work;—at leaſt, this idea will not appear improbable to thoſe, who, from different circumſtances, and particularly from the form and arrangement of the ſtreets of Perth, aſcribe the town itſelf to the Romans †.

Hunting-

* See the chartulary of the black friars of Perth in the Archives of King James's Hoſpital there.

† Whatever there may be in this ſuppoſition reſpecting the canal, it appears to derive ſome additional countenance from the family-hiſtory of the Mercers of Aldie, which enables us, as far as we may conſider it authentic, to trace the corn-mills of Perth, and conſequently this canal or lead upon which they depended, to a period, at leaſt, conſiderably earlier than the year

1244.

Huntingtower Caſtle, formerly Ruthven Caſtle, which is ſituated in this pariſh, may perhaps be entitled to attention, as the ancient ſeat of the Ruthven or Gowrie family, ſo remarkable for its ſingular and myſterious cataſtrophe: But an event which has been the ground of ſo much controverſy as that which is known by the name of *Gowrie's Conſpiracy*, is evidently too great a ſubject, either for examination or detail

in 1244 above-mentioned. Upon the authority of tradition, and ſome inſcriptions of uncertain date, together with the circumſtance of three mill-rynds being ſtill a part of the Mercer's arms, it is generally believed, by thoſe who have inquired into the ſubject, that the corn-mills ſerved by this canal were originally the property of that family, and granted by them to the king, who, in return, gave them a burial-place in the church of Perth, which the family ſtill poſſeſſes. And if we compare theſe circumſtances with a charter of confirmation granted by David I. to the Abbey of Dunfermline in the year 1140, (See Sir James Dalrymple's Collections) we find that the tranſaction alluded to, muſt have taken place, and conſequently that the canal itſelf muſt have exiſted, prior to the date of this charter: For the king, therein, either gives away for the firſt time, or confirms what his predeceſſors had done in giving away, the whole property of the church of Perth to that Abbey, in whoſe poſſeſſion it accordingly remained till the period of the reformation; and conſequently, the royal grant of a burial-place in that church to the family of Aldie, as a return for their gift of the mills ſerved by this canal, muſt have been of earlier date than the year 1140, from which period the church and its appendages were no longer at the diſpoſal of the kings of Scotland. If this ſort of evidence, then, can warrant us to believe that the canal in queſtion belonged to the Mercers of Aldie before the year 1140, there alſo ariſes ſtrong preſumption of its having been a work of ſtill earlier execution; for the nature and deſign of the work will ſcarce admit of our believing it to have been originally executed by the Mercers, or any private family whatever, but naturally lead to a ſuppoſition of its having been, in the firſt inſtance, a public concern, which, from circumſtances now unknown, had at length come into the hands of a private family, perhaps only as far as regarded its connection with the corn-mills.

in this Statiſtical Report *. The caſtle itſelf is more particularly diſtinguiſhed, as the place where King James VI. was for ſome time confined by the Earl of Gowrie, and others, who had entered into a combination for taking the young King out of the hands of his two early favourites, the lately created Duke of Lennox and Earl of Arran. 'James, 'after having reſided for ſome time in Athol, where he en-'joyed his favourite amuſement of hunting, was now return-'ing towards Edinburgh, with a ſmall train. He was invit-'ed to Ruthyen Caſtle, which lay in his way; and, as he ſuſ-'pected no danger, he went thither in hopes of farther ſport. 'The multitude of ſtrangers whom he found there gave him 'ſome uneaſineſs; and as thoſe who were in the ſecret ar-'rived every moment from different parts, the appearance 'of ſo many new faces increaſed his fears. He concealed 'his uneaſineſs, however, with the utmoſt care; and next 'morning prepared for the field, expecting to find there 'ſome opportunity of making his eſcape; but juſt as he was 'ready to depart, the nobles entered his bed-chamber in a 'body,

* The tradition of the country upon this ſubject is preſerved in a paper written by the late Mr Alexander Duff miniſter of this pariſh, and preſented by him to the Antiquarian Society of Perth. And it may here ſuffice to obſerve farther, reſpecting this family, whoſe general hiſtory is incorporated with that of the nation, that, from their ancient proper names, as theſe are found in charters of early date, they appear to have been of *Daniſh* extraction. In a charter, (formerly quoted) granted to the monaſtery of Scone by Walter the Lord of Ruthven, in the reign of William the Lion, he is denominated the ſon of *Alan*, grandſon of *Suane*, and great-grandſon of Thore; and it is alſo perhaps worthy of notice, in this view, that the ford of a rivulet, which runs through the ancient manor of this family, and has now ſcarce any diſtinguiſhing name, is, in the ſame charter, denominated the Ford of *Lochlin*, which is known to be an ancient name for *Denmark*. The family is now repreſented by Lord Ruthven of Freeland.

'body, and presented a memorial against the illegal and op-
'pressive actions of his two favourites, whom they repre-
'sented as most dangerous enemies to the religion and liber-
'ties of the nation. James, though he received their re-
'monstrance with the complaisance that was necessary in his
'present situation, was extremely impatient to be gone; but
'as he approached the door of his apartment, the Tutor of
'Glammis rudely stopped him. The King complained, ex-
'postulated, threatened, and finding all these without effect,
'burst into tears. 'No matter, said Glammis, fiercely,
"better children weep than bearded men." These words
'made a deep impression on the king's mind, and were never
'forgotten. The conspirators, without regarding his tears
'or indignation, dismissed such of his followers as they sus-
'pected, allowed none but their own party to have access
'to him; and though they treated him with great respect,
'guarded his person with the utmost care. This enterprise
'is usually called by our historians, *The Raid of Ruthven*.'
Those concerned in the transaction were afterwards declared guilty of high treason.

An extraordinary exploit of a fair lady has likewise added to the renown of this ancient castle, and has given the name of *The Maiden's Leap*, to the space between its two towers, which, though united by late buildings, were originally separate. A daughter of the first Earl of Gowrie was courted by a young gentleman of inferior rank, whose pretensions were not countenanced by the family. When a visitor at the castle, he was always lodged in a separate tower from the young lady. One night, however, 'before the doors were
'shut, she conveyed herself into her lover's apartment; and
'so deceiving Duenna, acquainted the Countess with it, who
'cutting

Robertson's Hist. of Scotland.

'cutting off, as ſhe thought, all poſſibility of retreat, haſten-
'ed to ſurpriſe them. The young lady's ears were quick,—
'ſhe heard the footſteps of the old Counteſs, ran to the top
'of the leads, and took the deſperate leap of 9 feet 4 inches
'over a chaſm of 60 feet, and luckily lighting on the battle-
'ments of the other tower, crept into her own bed, where
'her aſtoniſhed mother found her, and, of courſe, apologiſed
'for her unjuſt ſuſpicion. The fair daughter did not chooſe
'to repeat the leap, but the next night, eloped and was mar-
'ried *.'

After the forfeiture of the laſt Earl of Gowrie, this caſtle and the adjoining manor, were beſtowed by King James VI. upon the family of Tullibardine, now united, by marriage, to the family of Athol, in whoſe poſſeſſion they ſtill remain; but as all idea of continuing this for a ſeat of family-reſidence has been for ſome time abandoned, the Duke has very wiſely availed himſelf of the advantage which the local ſituation affords for the different manufactures already deſcribed; and ſuch is the change in the circumſtances of the place, concurring with the genius of the times, that the ſame caſtle, in which the proud and powerful baron once confined his king as a priſoner, is now quietly occupied by a colony of callico-printers.

Tibbermuir was, at an early period, the reſidence of ſeveral biſhops of Dunkeld, particularly of Biſhop Geoffrey, and Biſhop Sinclair, who both died here; the one in the year 1249, the other in 1337 †. During their times, too, the principal

* Pennant's Tour.

† Fordun's Hiſt. of Scotland, and Mill's M. S. Lives of the Biſhops of Dunkeld.

From the following language of Fordun, Biſhop Geoffrey appears to have been eminently diſtinguiſhed by his munificence, and attention to the intereſts of his Dioceſe: 'Hoc etiam an-
'no,

principal place of worship belonging to this parish, was the church of St Servanus *, (commonly called St Serf's Chapel) situated on the north side of the river Almond, and according to modern boundaries within the parish of Redgorton. The desertion of this church is ascribed, by tradition, to the melancholy accident of a child of the Lord of Ruthven, who had been baptised there, having, on the way home, been drowned in the Almond.

At *Tullilum* too, in the east end of this parish, there was once a convent of Carmelites, but the name of the founder is not preserved. Our best information respecting this place is

'no, obiit Episcopus Galfridus, in die Sanctae Ceciliae, apud Tybirmore, et in Ecclesia Dunkeldensi tumulatur; quam Praediis et possessionibus dolavit, quam Regulis et Institutis informavit, quam vestibus et ornamentis decoravit, quam fere per omnia exaltavit.'

Bishop Sinclair's name, however, is still better known in history, and the honours that adorn it are not of an ecclesiastical kind alone. A *military* exploit, that he performed in the glorious reign of Robert Bruce, so delighted that wise and valiant prince, that he ever afterwards called him *his Bishop*. Edward II. the English king, taking advantage of the absence of Robert, who was then in Ireland, had sent a great army into Scotland to make revenge for the losses of former years; and the English, having been thrice defeated by Douglas governor of the borders, had recourse to the expedient of sending a naval force into the Forth, to infest and plunder the coast. To check the progress of those who had disembarked, Duncan, Earl of Fife assembled 500 men, and marched at their head towards the enemy; but having observed their vast superiority in number, he was returning homeward, leaving the country at the mercy of the English, when Bishop Sinclair, with about 60 attendants, fortunately met him. Ashamed of the Earl's timidity, the Bishop laid hold of a lance, and called, with a loud voice, upon all the friends of their country to follow him. Being readily obeyed, he charged the enemy with such vigour, that he quickly routed them; and those who escaped from the field of battle, having precipitately fled to their ships, many of them were drowned in their hurry to embark. *Buchanan, Maitland, &c.*

* Mill's M. S. Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld.

is derived from Keith's Lives of the Biſhops, where we learn that Richard Inverkeithing Biſhop of Dunkeld built here a chapel and a houſe in 1262, and that the Synods of the Dioceſe met here till 1460, when Thomas Lauder Biſhop of Dunkeld removed them to his own cathedral.

Tibbermuir has alſo given its name to the firſt battle that was fought between the Marquis of Montroſe and the Covenanters, though the field of battle is perhaps as much, if not more, within the pariſh of Aberdalgy, which at this place approaches very near to the church of Tibbermuir. Before the engagement, the Covenanters were addreſſed by one of their enthuſiaſtic preachers, in a manner ſuited to the genius of the times. 'If ever God, ſaid he, ſpoke a word of 'truth out of my mouth, I promiſe you, in his name, aſſured 'victory this day;' but the event was not of a kind to juſtify much future confidence in his promiſes;—the Covenanters, amounting to about 6000 foot, and 600 horſe, were completely vanquiſhed by about 1700 half-armed Highlanders and Iriſh, who left 2000 of them dead in the field, and took 2000 priſoners.

Character of the People, &c.—The ſobriety of the people may be in ſome meaſure inferred from the ſingle circumſtance, that there is only one ale-houſe, or whiſky-ſhop, in the pariſh. Their induſtry, too, may be accounted conſiderable, from what has been ſaid of their agriculture and manufactures; and if their miniſter's report can be received as impartial evidence, they are no leſs diſtinguiſhed by Chriſtian charity, in the different branches of that cardinal virtue.

The only peculiar diſadvantage of outward ſituation, under which they labour, is that of bad roads; and if ſome ſpeedy and effectual method of improving them could be adopted, the relief would be great indeed! In the mean

time, they are thankful for the advantage they derive from a lately-formed turnpike-road passing through a part of the parish; and for the gradual, though slow, improvement of their other roads, which the statute-labour is in the course of accomplishing.

END OF THE SEVENTEENTH VOLUME.